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REVIEW

OF

ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LITERATURE.

OCTOBER 1, 1803.

ENGLISH BOOKS.

The Principal, Historical, and Allusive Arms, borne by Families of the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, with their respective Authorities. Collected by an Antiquary. With a Representation of the Arms on Copper-Plates. 4to. 2l. 2s. bds. 600 pp. Nichols and Son. 1803.

THE study of Heraldry has of late revived among us, and been undertaken by many gentlemen of much learning and industry, in whom a favourable and auspicious genius has concurred with a profundity of antiquarian knowledge, and a patient research.

Among a people from whom rank, without the assistance of wealth, can procure little respect, and in an age when rank can for the most be purchased by the sole merit of affluence, it should seem that the study of heraldry, from various causes, would meet with no benevolent reception.—Those who, in the words of *Sir Archy*, are sprung from sugar-casks, woolpacks, and rum puncheons, can have little ambition that the herald should pry into their origin, or, with offensive curiosity, discover that in the days of chivalry, and the crusades of the Holy land, their ancestors were among the vulgar and undistinguished herd.

This dignity of descent, and pride of illustrious alliance, seems, at the present moment, the only feather which the rapacity of modern honours has left to the old nobility: of this, as it is impossible to divest them, their possession may be considered an unalienable and lasting freehold.

In France, during the more corrupt and declining seasons of the court, titles were its constant merchandize, and the grand auctioneer of rank was the monarch himself. But notwithstanding the alloy and debasement which those of the old stamp experienced, means were yet devised to check more obtrusive encroachments, and make the objects of royal favour, whose ears were tickled with titles, sensible that the royal favour could not bestow every thing, and that though they were caressed at court, they must be spurned at the Office of the Herald.

It has been aptly said, 'the king can make a nobleman, but not a gentleman;' it was said likewise, with more striking truth, that the king could confer nobility of rank, but not nobility of birth.

It has been lamented that the Gwillims, the Collins', and the Edmonstones of these latter times, have degenerated into scanty compilers of *Court Calendars*, and abridgers of the *Red Books*, and that little is now told of an illustrious family, but the birth of its heir, and the intermarriages of its sons and daughters. For a practice of this kind, the excuse must be divided between negligence and interest. In the Catalogue of British Wor-

thies, who are now almost annually served up, *piping hot*, from the ministerial oven, so many are to be found, of whose ancestors so little is known beyond the records of a parish register, that it is prudent to derive their eminence wholly from themselves, and commence their family history from the period of their patents. Thus our nobility are all sunk to one level, and the indignation of such as may resent this usage is so little dreaded from their comparative scantiness of numbers, that it does not outweigh the contrary temptations of interest and flattery.

Now, though we do not like to disturb the *manes* of the Saxon kings, or load the memories of the Danes with crimes of which they were perhaps innocent; though we do not wish to increase the descendants of an Alfred, or multiply the issue of an Edmund Ironside; we are yet pleased to trace the origin of illustrious families, and recognise in their first founders objects of a nation's gratitude.

It is, nevertheless, our desire to tread a safe path, and be secure of the way which we are going. —— For this reason we recommend the present author. He is a man whose arm we are pleased to accept; in whose company we can contentedly jog on through a long and laborious journey, without feeling the tediousness of travel, or, when we have completed our task, without being dismissed with the unsatisfactoriness of doubt.

This work is dedicated with much sprightliness to the Ladies of the United Kingdom: the words are worth extracting.—'In contemplating 'the diversified ornaments of the creation, there is none which impress the 'mind with so much delight, as the beautiful forms of our fair country-'women. The most perfect symmetry, grace, and elegance, are comprised 'in their construction; the delicately blended tints of their complexions, 'the animated and interesting expression of their features, the general com-'bined effect of their persons, arrest our admiration and regard. But, when 'to these personal attractions are added soft and interesting manners; that 'flexibility of disposition, which at once soothes and corrects the rugged 'and boisterous nature of man; that attendant sympathy, which mitigates 'his sorrows, or heightens his enjoyments; and, above all, that seemingly 'innate tendency to piety, compassion, and benevolence so conspicuous in 'the far greater proportion of them; can they be considered otherwise 'than as the greatest boon of Providence? It is natural, therefore, that men 'should be candidates for the estimation and approval of those whom they 'so much venerate; and certain it is, that the applause and partiality shewn 'by the more amiable sex to the adventurous and intrepid has been, if not 'a leading inducement, yet a concurrent one, to daring actions; and as the 'following sheets chiefly consist of a detail of such actions, to whom can 'they be so aptly inscribed, as to those who have a powerful secret influ-'ence in producing them?"

This author is by no means to be received as a dry Antiquarian; on the contrary, he is a companion equally pleasant and secure; but as he explains the nature of his undertaking better than we can pretend to do, we shall make no excuse for extracting his *Introduction*.

'It may be supposed by many persons, inattentive to the subject, that 'all armorial bearings are hieroglyphical, having some latent interpreta-'tion: but this is by no means the case; a great proportion of them being 'only a kind of silent or additional name written in picture, by figures 'chosen for that purpose, merely to represent this or that name without 'further reference.

'By pourtraying and exhibiting such figures as have been assigned to 'them, it becomes known to what particular class the bearers belong when 'of the same name, but different lineage. By the figures they impale or

'quarter, their matrimonial connections and consanguinity are ascertained, and the specific importance or consideration they hold in the 'community.

'The numerous arms of mere distinction of names have, for the most 'part (with the acquiescence of the Earls Marshal), been granted by Heralds, at the instance of individuals desirous of possessing some representation appropriate to themselves, and their posterity; whereby they 'might be identified and discerned from the general complex mass of 'population.

'Such, for the most part, has been the heraldry of later years; but 'the ancient assignment of arms had a much more honourable origin, from 'their being the recompence of religious ardour and military service. The 'Crusade, or Holy War, which lasted a long series of years, gave rise to 'the great variety of crosses, seen in arms, diversified by their forms, numbers, colours, and position. The extermination of the infidels from the 'Holy Land seemed so meritorious and acceptable to the deity, that during the eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth centuries, nearly all Europe 'flocked thither with that pious intention; surrendering all worldly gratifications, and devoting themselves to fatigue, perils, and death.

'The escallop shells, with which pilgrims anciently decorated themselves, became, during the same æra, the emblem of pilgrimage; and, as 'well as the cross, were introduced into arms to denote a visitation of the 'Holy Land, either in a religious or a military character.

'The feudal system, which continued for many ages, was another 'great source of armorial bearings. The chief who led his military tenants 'to the field, often remunerated their attendance and service with arms 'partaking of the figures of his own, which marked their martial connection, and at the same time bore his testimony of their good conduct.—'The ancient Earls of Chester bearing for their arms garbs, or wheat 'sheaves, imparted that figure to many of the oldest and most considerable families of that country, as the Vernons, Cholmondeleys, Grosvenors, '&c. &c.

'The earls of many other counties, many barons, knights, &c. possessing feudal dominion, thus bestowed on their military vassals honorary attestations of the fulfilment of their duty.

'The frequency, and long continuance of wars, religious, or secular, 'under the feudal system, had been the means of giving to almost every 'family, above mediocrity, armorial distinctions; but, multitudes of these 'families having been swept away by the undistinguishing and unsparing 'hand of time, their vacancies have been filled up in the enrollments of honour, by new persons, with new grants of arms from the Heralds. These 'grants have not, like the original assignments of arms, been confined chiefly 'to men of the sword, but have been bestowed on persons who have risen 'to eminence in the church, law, or commercial pursuits; and who, by 'their accumulations, have been enabled to become the founders of new 'families.

'Having thus stated the different origin of the antient and modern 'heraldry, it remains to be observed that, comparatively, but to few families have been assigned any direct reference in their escutcheons, to their 'martial exploits, or to remarkable circumstances which may have occurred 'to them; the greater part of such references as have been made will be 'found in this collection.—Some others there are which, as yet, have not 'been attainable by the Editor; but which, should those here brought together into one point of view be thought at all corroborative of, or recordant of history, or conducive to the imitation of honourable actions, 'they may hereafter be added. It may be here not irrelative to observe,

'that our deservedly beloved and revered King has been a great patron and favourer of heraldry: in the following sheets, several grants of arms and honorary additions will be found to have been made by his express command.

'Among other beneficent propensities, he has ever shewn an eagerness to reward those who have rendered him and his people service, not only by dispensing such emblematic requitals, but by conferring the more available privileges of the peerage on them; his majesty having ennobled more persons for military and naval triumphs, than perhaps all the monarchs united who have preceded him.

'The occasional granting armorial honours (as well as titles of honour), under due regulations, is likewise sometimes an accommodation to the prince or statesman, as an aid or minute engine of his government, as well as gratifying to those to whom they are awarded. Let the republican confine his rewards to personality; the decree of having deserved well of his country is almost as transitory as its utterance; and the civic crown withers with the existence of a day. The duration of human life is not sufficiently long to receive the merited compensations of great and illustrious actions; nor will the excitement to them be half so forcible, as when they are requited by hereditary honours, and transmitted to the posterity of the atchiever. Men are said, in some degree, to exist in their descendants.—If this be allowed, some measure of respect must be due to the representatives (when not degenerate) for the public benefits derived from the predecessor. Shewing heraldry in this its proper light, it may be entitled to more estimation, than some literary men (depreciating it, perhaps, as a foil to their own pursuits) have been inclined to allow.'

These sentiments are strongly expressed, and meet our hearty approbation. The common folly of the day, at war with rank and birth, is here well exposed, and something of an answer is given to a question often asked, whether a degenerate descendant of a great man can cover his infamy in his title, and claim a portion of that respect which was due to the first purchaser of his honours? Undoubtedly; because it is his father, and not him, that we reverence; and as the debt of gratitude must be liquidated, where can a nation be grateful but to the immediate representative. The quit-rent of services must be paid, though the heir were a fool or a lunatic; and, in the words of the Roman general, when he saved Athens from a second devastation,—"We must spare the living for the sake of the dead."

The Works of Richard Owen Cambridge, Esq. including several Pieces never before published; with an Account of his Life and Character—By his Son, George Owen Cambridge, M. A. Prebendary of Ely. Vol. I. 4to. 500 pp. 2l. 12s. 6d. in boards. Cadell and Davies, 1803.

THIS gentleman, about fifty years ago, was distinguished in a literary class, of which scarcely a single member is now remaining.—He was a large contributor to the celebrated periodical paper, called the *World*, and was no less estimable as a poet than as a writer of prose. From reasons which we know not he passed voluntarily into obscurity, and neglected all care of his future fame. Thus, forgetting, and forgotten by the world, he enjoyed a long and tranquil life, and his son now comes forward to assert his claim to literary distinction, a claim of which his father seems always to have been regardless. This biography is written with great elegance and interest, and presents Mr. Cambridge to us in colours, a little exaggerated perhaps, by the pardonable fondness of a son, but in such as excite our esteem and veneration, and gratify our feelings and curiosity.

An abstract of the Life of Mr. Cambridge will best satisfy our readers—

He was born in London, in the year 1717, and descended from an ancient and honourable family. He was sent at an early age to Eton, where, amongst his principal friends, were Mr. Bryant, Mr. Gray, Mr. West, Horace Walpole, &c. besides many others, distinguished for taste and learning, with most of whom he formed a friendship, which lasted through their respective lives.

To school exercises he professed to have paid no laborious attention, but was indebted for his improvement to an unusual quickness of parts, which enabled him to acquire with facility, what cost others much pain and exertion. He appears to have been much addicted to acting plays; a dangerous propensity in a young man, which it would have been wise for him to have curbed. His performance of Falstaff and Torismond in the Spanish Friar, were always mentioned by his school-fellows as particularly excellent, as also of Micio in the Adelphi of Terence. In the midst of his application to graver studies, and the more lively exertions of genius, he manifested an early relish for the beauties of nature. The transparent stream of the Thames, and the picturesque scenes in the neighbourhood of Eton and Windsor, appear to have made the same impression on his mind, as upon that of his school-fellow, Mr. Gray, and whilst in the contemplative fancy of the one they produced the celebrated ode on the distant view of Eton College, they formed in the active mind of the other, a taste for the varied combination of wood, water, and lawn, which was exercised with great success, first at his seat in Gloucestershire, and afterwards in the meadows of Twickenham.

From Eton in 1734, he was removed to St. John's College, Oxford, which he entered as a gentleman commoner. His studies were carried on much in the same manner as at Eton. No day was passed without some acquisition of knowledge, either in literature, mechanics, or the polite arts; yet without any appearance of severe study. Upon the marriage of the Prince of Wales Mr. Cambridge produced a copy of verses, which are inserted in this volume. He seems to have had little of those talents requisite for a court poet; he had no happiness in soliciting the Graces to assist at a wedding, or Venus to lend her cestus to the nymph; his muse was not accustomed to entreat the sun to shine upon a birth-day, or the stars to quit their orbs to partake in the general rejoicings.

Mr. Cambridge is acknowledged by his son to have possessed a fancy rather frolicksome and humorous than suited to these sublime occasions.

He left Oxford in 1737, without a degree, desirous of rejoining his Eton companions at Lincoln's Inn, some of whom had entered that society, of which he himself became a member.

It may be here remarked, that as Mr. Cambridge introduces the friends of his father, whom he has chiefly constituted the *dramatis personæ* of his work; he prefaces their introduction with a character, and confirms the thing with a portrait; most of which we must, however, acknowledge to be elegantly engraved.

He here formed many splendid friendships, among whom were Isaac Hawkins Browne, and Lord Chancellor Bathurst. In 1741, Mr. Cambridge was married to the second daughter of George Trenchard, Esq. at Woolverton in Dorsetshire. This marriage, which originated in a mutual preference, laid the foundation of an attachment, which subsisted full sixty years. Mr. Cambridge now settled at his family seat of Whitminster in Gloucestershire, in which retirement he passed about seven or eight years. His time was mostly devoted to the improvement of his seat, and mechanical studies. Mr. Cambridge had a passion for country sports, and was reputed a *good shot*; his son tells us some stories of this kind, which are too trifling to introduce. In the midst of his rural occupations he formed the plan,

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collected the materials, and wrote the whole of his mock heroic poem, the Scribleriad. This work, however, was not published till some years afterwards. Mr. Cambridge now enlarged his acquaintance with the literati of the day, and became the friend of Whitehead, Littleton, Pitt, Chesterfield, and Villiers, Earl of Clarendon. By several of these friends he was strongly solicited to come into parliament, for which situation he was peculiarly qualified. He declined it, however, whether fearing the expence or trouble we cannot determine. The most distinguished of his literary friends was Thomas Edwards, Esq. the admired author of the sonnets in Dodsley's collection. Much poetry seems to have passed between them, all of which, together with their letters, is here preserved. About the year 1748, the death of Mr. Owen put his nephew, the subject of these memoirs, in possession of that gentleman's property, which, though not very extensive, was an acceptable addition to the small income upon which he had hitherto lived. He now cultivated more at ease that select society to which he had access, and took a house at London, near his friend, Mr. Villiers, a gentleman, who, for his signal services to his country, in the diplomatic character, was created Earl of Clarendon; a man of the most enlarged benevolence, and engaging softness of manners, whose name should never be mentioned without gratitude and respect.

In the year 1751, Mr. Cambridge purchased a villa at Twickenham to which he removed; an event which contributed essentially to the happiness of his life, for a period of more than fifty years.

It is but justice to his taste to observe, that at the time when the place came into his hands, the river, with all the rich scenery on the opposite shore, was so entirely excluded from the house by high walls and terraces, that the aspect it bore was the very reverse of that gaiety and cheerfulness which constitute its present appearance.

The principal traits in the character of this gentleman were somewhat similar to those of the celebrated Shenstone; he delighted in rural scenery, in the sublimity and beauty of variegated landscape, and had a taste for the improvement and laying out of grounds after the manner of the latter: a passion of this kind is in its tendency so harmless, and may be in its effect so useful, by giving bread to honesty and industry, that it scarcely deserves ridicule, even in its excess; but assuredly it is no great elevation of human genius to be busied in the rolling of lawns, or the planting of firs and cyprusses, in pouring water down a tin cascade, making it stagnate where it may be seen, and murmur where it may be heard—to erect temples to Silvanus, and statutes to Pan and Diana; to place here a piping Faun, and there a weeping Naiad, are certainly rather the sports than the occupations of a rational mind, but as the evil they can do must be so trifling, and the possible good to be derived from them may be so publicly beneficial, it is perhaps imprudent to censure them with severity.

It was during Mr. Cambridge's residence at Twickenham, that his name became known as an author; in the course of the first year he published the Scribleriad, a mock heroic poem, designed to ridicule false taste and science; of this poem it may be said, that its general character is drawn from the Dunciad and the Dispensary, but it has less alliance to life and manners than either of those productions. The Dunciad exposed the characters of authors in whose fate curiosity was interested; the Dispensary ridiculed the quacks in medicine, and was popular by attacking men well known to the world: both had life and manners to support them; the Scribleriad had neither. The cap not being perceived to fit any body, and the poem nevertheless a satire, the public were disappointed, and the work was not received with kindness. This poem is no longer in danger of criticism, it is now forgotten, and why should we rake up the ashes of the dead. It must be confessed,

confessed, however, to contain some excellent rules of criticism, and a poignancy of wit which would have embalmed a better subject. It established the reputation of its author as a critic and a scholar. But what most contributed to his literary estimation was his success in a periodical work called the '*World*,' one of the most popular of its kind at the present day, and more after the manner of the Spectator, than either the Adventurer or the Connoisseur. It is written, however, with too much levity, and has justly been compelled to close the rear of the British classics. It began in the year 1752, and was kept up with great spirit for four years. To this work Mr. Cambridge was a large contributor, and perhaps the most eminent of any: his essays are all preserved in this edition. Lord Chesterfield, who likewise assisted in the '*World*,' has drawn the following character of Mr. Cambridge in one of his papers.

'Cantabridgius drinks nothing but water, and rides more miles in a year 'than the keenest sportsman, the former keeps his head clear, the latter his 'body in health; it is not from himself that he runs, but to his acquaintance, 'a synonimous term for his friends. Internally safe he seeks no sanctuary for 'himself, no intoxication for his mind: his penetration makes him discover 'and divert himself with the follies of mankind, which his wit enables him to 'expose with the keenest ridicule, though always without personal offence— 'cheerful abroad because happy at home, and thus happy because virtuous.'

The life of Mr. Cambridge for many years after was devoted to literary retirement; but his acquaintance with the great and eminent increased, and he numbered Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, Mr. Harris, author of Hermes, and Lord Barrington, among his most intimate friends. He seems to have turned his attention to Asiatic history, and intended to have published something relating to it; but, for reasons we cannot guess, his design was given over.

Mr. Cambridge was considerably advanced in his eighty-third year, before he became sensible of bodily infirmity, and his literary labours had long intermitted.

His first decay was in the loss of his sight: during this gradual increase of feebleness, and with the discouraging prospect of still greater sufferings, his exemplary patience and constant care to spare the feelings of his family were eminently conspicuous; nor did the distressing infirmities, inseparably attendant on extreme debility, ever produce a murmur of complaint, or even a hasty or unguarded expression. It is somewhat singular, and may be regarded as the proof of an unusually strong frame, that no symptom of disease took place; all the organs of life continued to execute their respective functions until nature, being wholly exhausted, he expired without a sigh, on the 17th of September, 1802, leaving a widow, two sons, and a daughter.

Of Lord Chesterfield, who, like Mr. Cambridge, possessed his faculties to the close of life, it is recorded, that the last words he uttered were strictly in character; and the remark made by his physician, Dr. Warren, upon that occasion was, that "his good breeding would only quit him with his life"— "I shall hope for indulgence" says the author of these memoirs, "in applying the like observation to my father, whose latest words were equally characteristic: expressing that fond attachment to his family, which had ever been his ruling passion. Having passed a considerable time in a sort of doze, from which it was thought he had hardly strength to survive, he awoke, and upon seeing me, feebly articulated, "How do the dear people do?" when I answered that they were well; with a smile upon his countenance, and with an increased energy, he replied—"I thank God!" and then reposed his head upon the pillow, and spoke no more."

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'In estimating his literary attainments, he is to be regarded rather as an 'elegant than a profound scholar. The liveliness of his parts was more adapted to quick discernment than deep thinking; he had, therefore, but little 'inclination for abstruse studies, or those researches which demand laborious 'investigation. In other branches of learning, his knowledge was so general 'and extensive, that it is not easy to determine towards which he was most 'inclined. There were few works of the ancients of any reputation, with 'which he was not conversant, and on which he was not able to give a critical 'and judicious opinion; but those of most distinguished merit, especially 'among the poets, he was accurately acquainted with, and they were to him 'a never-failing source of study and delight.

'His expeditious manner of extracting from books all the useful matter 'they contained was very remarkable, and whatever his judgement selected, 'his memory was sure to retain; whilst all that was trifling and useless seemed 'to be instantly effaced from his mind; thus his reading was more profitable 'and extensive than that of most persons professedly devoted to study. In 'conversation, the quickness with which he caught allusions, could only be 'equalled by the rapidity with which he furnished them. In quotations he 'was particularly ready, not only from the classics, but from various other authors. These, however, were never pedantic or abstruse, but usually illustrative of some critical remark, or so applied as to convey an original sense 'of his own, and that often very humorous and witty. The mottoes to his 'essays in the '*World*' will exemplify this, particularly that to the paper on 'Turtle-eating.

'He was fond of shewing the uniformity of human nature in all ages, by 'the ready application of passages in ancient writers to modern manners and 'the most recent events, of which frequent examples will be found in the parodies and imitations that are contained in this volume. He had a correct 'knowledge of some of the languages of the south of Europe, especially Spanish, and understood them sufficiently to relish the works of their best authors, with many of which he was acquainted, that are but little known in 'the countries where they were written. But while he pursued instruction 'and entertainment in these various languages, his talents were employed 'chiefly in cultivating his native language, of which he was an accurate critic 'both in prose and verse. This fondness of books served rather to increase 'than diminish his study of human nature. His insight into men was correct, 'judicious, and acute; he viewed with the eye of a philosopher the influence 'of the passions, not only in the great and leading points of human conduct, 'but in the trifling incidents of common life.

'The follies of mankind excited his mirth rather than his spleen, but his 'vein of comic humour was ever regulated by his native benevolence, which 'would not allow him voluntarily to inflict the slightest pain. In conformity 'with this sentiment, it was usual with him to say—'The world has given me 'credit beyond what I deserve for the witty things I may have said, but I 'have infinitely more merit for those I have suppressed.'

'Few private men have led so active a life, or mixed with such various 'descriptions of people, without being involved in any personal difficulty or 'serious disagreement. This may be imputed to a firm, uniform, and dignified deportment, joined to a calm and peaceable disposition, which made 'him always anxious in the impressive words of Solomon,—'to leave off contention before it be meddled with.'

'In his political, as well as all other opinions, he manifested the candour 'which arose from knowledge as well as temper; towards persons in power 'he was favourable in his judgment, from a just view of the difficulties they 'have to encounter; but on no occasion was ever known to flatter private 'vice, or excuse a neglect of public duty. His life and principles were

'alike

'alike free from corruption; his purity and independence were equally un-'tainted.

" He was always disposed to give his society to young men, first entering 'into the world, whom he saw desirous of profiting by his knowledge and 'experience, and who were sufficiently enlightened to enjoy his conversation; 'many of these friendships, formed with persons perhaps thirty years younger 'than himself, he preserved to the last, and shewed a fatherly interest in their 'welfare, by giving them such advice as was highly useful, both for their pub-'lic and private conduct. One of these friends, who has now been long in 'political life, and who, by the upright and able part he has acted, does equal 'honour to himself and service to his country, has often declared to me, that 'there is no part of his parliamentary conduct, he reflects upon with more 'pleasure, than the line he pursued in those great questions, upon which he 'most conferred with my father; and in which he most accorded with his 'sentiments.

" Should I," continues the writer of these memoirs, " in this account of 'the life of a revered parent, be thought to have been too minute, I trust I 'may claim some indulgence to an anxious wish, that he should be remem-'bered principally for those qualities, which, during his long life, gained him 'the esteem of his numerous friends, and which now do most honour to 'memory.

" Although the reader may have found in the preceding pages little to 'engage his attention by the recital of great events, to provoke emulation by 'the display of profound erudition, or to excite industry by the example of 'intense study, I still presume to hope, that these memoirs may have their 'use, by furnishing that class of men, to which my father belonged, men of 'easy and independent fortunes, who have a taste for the liberal arts, and a 'relish for the pleasures of polished life, with a practical example of one who 'succeeded to the utmost of his wishes, in the attainment of rational happi-'ness; and that the favour of the great, the esteem of the learned, and the 'admiration of the witty, may be obtained without any undue concessions, or 'any departure from those principles, which should govern a wise man, and a 'good christian."

Gleanings in England, descriptive of the Countenance, Mind, and Character of the Country; with new Views of Peace and War. By Mr. Pratt. Vol. III. 700 pp. Longman and Rees. 1803.

THE literary character of Mr. Pratt is no longer at the mercy of criti-cism; he has passed the ordeal of public judgment, and may dismiss the Reviewers from all future power over him. We have now little more to do than to announce him to our readers; we have only to hang up the sign, and they know what entertainment to expect.

As the limits we can assign to our notice of this interesting work are neces-sarily small, we must be excused all prefatory remark, since every line we should insert of our own would only rob the public of the better entertain-ment of Mr. Pratt. We may be permitted, however, to observe, that the Gleanings have more of the amusement and grandeur of generality than the last volume of the author. In this volume the Gleaner is not confined to a county or a provincial town; his range is unlimited, and his curiosity is as ar-dent as select; his survey is at once general and minute, and such is the value of the present Gleanings, that we do not hesitate to assert that, in the sheaf he has now gathered, will be found a laurel of a lasting verdure and

fame to cover the temples of the author. This volume is addressed to Mr. Angerstein, and the author thus justifies the selection of his patron.

" A trait of a very important kind is still wanting in a sketch of the ' national picture, I mean, sir, an English Merchant. The august empire, ' whose mental likeness I have attempted, offers a rich and ample choice on ' this occasion; though that feature must combine the purest commercial in- ' tegrity with the most extensive active benevolence.

" In this union of great and good qualities, I have but to mention the name ' of Mr. Angerstein, to be universally justified in my choice. That gentle- ' man's public acts of bounty stand upon record; and he is pre-eminent as a ' benefactor to the noblest, tenderest, and best of those Charities which are ' among the prime national objects I have endeavoured to describe; and of ' his private beneficence, instances have, I am assured, their faithful registers ' in numberless hearts, which his philanthropy has relieved from want, from ' sorrow, and from various misfortune.

" More than one example of this, sir, has come within my own observation, ' and should the favour which has been shewn by the public to the former parts ' of this work, be extended to the present volume, very many of my readers ' will silently, yet glowingly, feel the truth and the force of this assertion.

" And surely, sir, never has there been a moment at which the public and ' private virtues of the English Merchant had more occasion to exert all the ' energies of that exalted character.

" The country has been insulted. The lives and property of Englishmen ' are insolently menaced: inevitable burthens must again be laid upon indus- ' try, ingenuity, and labour, with a heavy hand; and a daring, infatuated ' enemy is on the watch. The poor and the rich, in all their classes and gra- ' dations must feel the weight of a *new war*, that has blasted all the promised ' joys of peace, even in their first fruits. These, and innumerable evils in ' their train, lay claim to all the powers that constitute the mind and character ' of an affluent English Merchant, and all these powers will be exerted by Mr. ' Angerstein; who, to the more essential qualities of a great and good man, ' superadds a love of the fine arts, and encourages the talents which produce ' them: and who, when the insatiable hand of a universal plunderer would ' have appropriated every foreign repository, secured to this country a do- ' mestic treasure, in those great works, the study of which, is so necessary ' to the rising art.

" For all these public and private reasons; for possessing with great power ' a yet greater inclination to do good; and for thus forming in his own mind ' and character several prominent features in that of his country; it is with ' equal pride and pleasure this last portion of " Gleanings in England," is ' now offered to the patronage of Mr. Angerstein."

In the preface, which is written with the usual airiness of the author, Mr. Pratt concludes with the following " delectable apologue," as he calls it, which is truly worth the telling in itself, and has been most fortunately picked up just where it was wanted.

" A certain Swiss, who had heard how many of his countrymen had come ' to London poor, and returned into their own country rich, determined like- ' wise to try his fortune; and, as he understood success in that city frequently ' depended more upon a foreign name or a quaint title than merit, he had ' the precaution ro pay attention to this circumstance; because, though in its ' own nature insignificant, if not ridiculous, it was yet necessary. He had ' been *premier cuisinier*, or first cook, to a French count, where he had got ' much honour but little wages; he therefore determined to take a house in ' the city, keep an ordinary, and call it a *table d' hôte*. To London then he ' comes, and puts his design in practice. All the world is informed that *Mon- ' sieur de Tripot* is become a *traiteur*, and keeps a *table d' hôte*; and all the world, ' hearing

'hearing such a string of fine words, were curious to learn something more of 'the man. Accordingly, the first day his cloth was laid, a numerous set of 'customers came in; and as London is fuller of strangers than any other city 'of the world, he had guests of all nations. Our Swiss, who expected a good 'company, had provided plentifully: there was roast and boiled, fish and flesh, 'wild fowl and tame, puddings and pies; nay, there were patés, ragouts, and 'olios for the nicer palates; besides turtle-soup and marrow puddings for the 'citizens.

"*Monsieur de Tripot*, who had a laudable ambition to please, and was in-'ternally satisfied of the exertions he had made, came up when dinner was 'over, (for on this important day he forbore to sit at table himself,) hoping to 'receive the thanks of his customers: and, indeed, it must be owned, they 'had all fed heartily; and some few shook him by the hand, and thanked him 'for his good dinner. The greater part, however, said nothing; as it is really 'some trouble to bestow praise, and one gets nothing by it. But there were 'others who were absolutely dissatisfied. A Tartar complained his favourite 'dish was not there, not so much as a rasher of mare's flesh to be had; an 'Arab murmured that there were no grilled locusts in the desert; a French-'man repeated Sacristi! Diable! and Sacre Dieu! with the utmost vehe-'mence, because he could get no fricasseed frogs; and there was a vile Hot-'tentot, who gave himself to all the devils of Teneriffe, if there was a single 'eatable morsel on the table, not a bit of raw gut could he find; there was, 'tis true, tripe and chitterlings, but they were dressed in such a cleanly way, 'they had lost all relish. Our good Swiss was at first a little mortified to 'meet dissatisfaction, when he had laboured so hard for praise; but a little 'experience convinced him this was a grievance to which, as long as he ca-'tered for the public, he must ever be subject. However it was some con-'solation for him, that their practice of coming to his house proved that they 'held his ordinary to be a good one, *since every guest found something to his taste.*"

The contents of this volume are too copious to insert, and we have limits in our plan which we do not find in our zeal. But we cannot conclude without recommending to our readers, with something more than common earnestness, the perusal of the few conclusive sheets. They exhibit, in diction the most animating and splendid, the patriotic character of the author. We can conceive the enthusiasm which such zeal and colouring must spread among every class, and if it were possible that an honest man could want an argument for the love of his country, he might be supplied with one from the vocabulary of Mr. Pratt.

The History of the Revolutions of Russia, to the Accession of Catharine the First; including a concise Review of the Manners and Customs of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries. By Henry Card, A. B. Pembroke College, Oxford. 1 vol. 8vo. 720 pp. 12s. bds. Longman and Rees. 1803.

FROM the various subjects adapted for the pen of the historian, Mr. Card has had the taste to select those revolutions, which have as deeply shaken, as they have now firmly established, the massy fabric of the Russian empire. His design, in his own words, is that of communicating to the public a more particular knowledge of occurrences, which however remote from our own times, still merit attention, as they explain the domestic causes which prevented Russia from assuming, until so late a period, her proper station in the balance of Europe.

The narrative of the memorable æras of any national history, under the name of revolutions, is doubtless an object both of general interest to the public, and of peculiar attention and reflection to the statesman and the his-

torian. This part of history was begun by *Vertot*, in his revolutions of Portugal; the success of his work has produced almost annual imitators. The great advantage of this style of history is certainly that of separating from the chaos and mass of national historic matter, those æras which have been distinguished for great events, for designs which propose a fixed and distant end, and pursue it through a regular progress of means of at least apparent efficiency. This may not improperly be called the Drama of History.

It must be confessed, that Mr. Card has executed his task in a better manner, than, from the sterility of his subject, we were inclined to expect. It required more than common talents of writing and selection, to render interesting any of the ancient parts of Russian history. The objects of curiosity in Russian history are of a late date, and have all been amply related by the pens of Coxe, Tooke, and Hunter.

If there be any thing to be objected in this useful work of Mr. Card's, it is that the style is less simple than appears suited to the nature of the subject. It has moreover the too common fault of a full style, that of being tautologous, and not unfrequently very weak and lagging.

We have not, indeed, to complain of any abruptness in his clauses, or want of harmony in the construction of his sentences; on the contrary, they are laboured to a nicety, and there is much predominance of sound. But the great fault of Mr. Card's style is, that it is inflated with unseasonable metaphors, and sweats under a wearisome weight of useless words, and cumbersome epithets. He has yet to learn simplicity, and an easy conveyance of his meaning.

In page 6th of the Preface, the author says, "On an attentive examination of Russia I was *at last* induced to *think* and *conclude*."

In page 1st of the History, *parsimonious* is very wrongly applied to an historical monument. Parsimony is a moral quality, and belongs only to a moral agent.

The author seems to have consulted many books, but we apprehend he is not familiar with any of the Russian historians in their native language; some of those who have written in Latin he appears to have read. His materials seem for the most collected from the French writers, who were the first to explore the mine of Russian history; but there is still a great deal of his own, and an occasional display of learning in his notes, which, as the author we believe is young in years as well as literature, has very much, and pleasingly surprised us. Our readers will be desirous of an extract from a work which we pronounce interesting, industrious, and moderately profound. We extract from page 174.

'But the important moment was at last arrived when the boldness of 'Ivan soared beyond the reach of his oppressors, and he grasped his sceptre 'with the strength and independence of a man: nurtured in the school of 'adversity, his tyrants had unknowingly taught him the invaluable lesson of 'finding the resources of redress in his own genius and presence of mind. 'At the youthful age of fourteen, a period at which the human character is 'generally loose and indeterminate, he appears to have possessed all the 'confirmed attributes of an active and enterprising manhood."

'In a full assembly of nobles, and in a speech delivered with the most im- 'pressive dignity and freedom, he thus proclaimed his intention to expose 'himself in defence of his rights, his empire, and independence.

'Hope of the blood of Rurik, I am the sole heir of my ancestors, and 'you have offered me the homage of allegiance, even in my cradle. But 'the unprotected state of my infancy has given ample scope for turbulent 'and designing men to possess the royal power; and their seizure of my au- 'thority has been pregnant with manifold evils. These enemies of peace 'and order have filled with scandalous oppression the throne to which I have

'been

'been called by right and nature; they have confounded the prerogative of 'the prince with his subjects; they have mingled in one common mass, my 'possessions with their domains, the revenues of the state with their own 'houses; they have driven from my person those brave men who were the 'best support of my government: but the period of their iniquities is finish-'ed; the reins of absolute sway are now held by my hands; and my subjects 'shall find that I wish to stand forward as the protector of the weak and 'innocent, the punisher of the guilty and perfidious.'

'His voice was heard and obeyed; and his first decisive mandate, by 'which he levelled to the root this stubborn plant of faction and disobedi-'ence, and pleased the minds of all reflecting men, was to condemn to the 'block that patron of tyranny Chosciski, whose name and power had so 'lately acknowledged no superior. His numerous partisans were even 'blended in the same bloody fate, or detained in the strict confinement of a 'prison, or dispersed in banishment.

'Thus fell, beneath the first efforts of a boy, a confederacy which not 'only threatened to overturn the throne, but to weaken the firmest founda-'tion of the empire itself. The frame of the court was new modelled with 'the fortune of Ivan; fulsome adulation, and reverential awe, were now 'succeeded by overbearing insolence, and extreme rigour now presided in the 'seat of impunity. A certain Bonterlin presumed to utter the language of 'disrespect, but his boldness was punished with the loss of his tongue.— 'This act of severity soon restored the long-forgotten words of duty and 'discipline to their sovereign.

'But Ivan, compelled from his unhappy situation to rule over his sub-'jects with the iron rod of terror, soon contracted that inflexible severity of 'character, which no counsels of knowledge or experience could ever ef-'face. Thus, while the unerring judgment of posterity exalted him to the 'rank of a great and heroic character, we shudder at his savage and in-'exorable passions, which so strongly characterise the detested features of 'a tyrant."

Of the style of this work, which is the worst part of it, our readers will form some idea from the specimen we have given.

General Biography; or, Lives, Critical, and Historical, of the most eminent Persons of all Ages, Countries, Conditions, and Professions; arranged according to Alphabetical Order; composed by John Aikin, M. D. the Rev. Thomas Morgan, and Mr. William Johnston. Volume the 4th. 4to. 627 pp. 1l. 11s. 6d. Johnson. 1803.

WHETHER a work of this kind should have been executed in this manner, we cannot pretend to say, but undoubtedly we had still to lament a penury of English biography, and the Biographia Britannica which pretended to supply our deficiencies was scandalously imperfect; and, notwithstanding the edition which was publishing some time since, the progress of the work was, from many unforeseen reasons, so much retarded, that the public had some reason to be dissatisfied.

The present Editors seem sensible of the demand in the market, and are forward in the offer of their merchandise. In our opinion, they have run the race *pretty quick*; whether there is more '*haste than speed*' is another question.

A good collection of Biography was long wanted in the English language, and notwithstanding its copiousness in every department of learning, many of our literary heroes were yet without a history of their exploits, their studies, and their sufferings. When a writer had enlarged the landmarks of science, and conquered new regions of philosophy, it seemed

seemed hard that no narrative should be left of his actions more extended than the inscription on his tomb-stone, and that all he did, all he said, and all he endured, should be comprised within the scanty limits of his epitaph. This was too frequently the case, and when the Biographia appeared to supply these wants, it met with a most benevolent reception, and was deservedly popular. But the Biographia, though it did as much as it could, did not do all. It embraced only the history of such as were long deceased, whose records could be obtained with certainty, but passed over those who were scarce cold in their graves, and seemed persuaded with the cynic philosopher, that the merit of a hundred years was only worthy to be embalmed.

Thus, whilst this work was growing under the compilers, great men were daily falling around them, and a new crop was springing up, who, in their turn of mortality, required a new Biographia to record them, and, to the credit of the nation, were so plentiful, that it was not a small one that would comprise them.

In this state of the case there was a daily necessity for enlarging the work of which we have spoken, and this, as we have likewise observed, being retarded by many impediments, the public wants seemed to demand something supplemental.

It is generally confessed that this task is best assigned to men of moderate acquirements. Compiling geniuses, and drudging talents are easily to be had. A kind of literary overseer is indeed necessary to mark out the work, to see that the hirelings do not flag, and pay the cost of their employers; but, for any thing else, matters of this species, like the repairs of a country bridge, or a turnpike road, are mostly done by contract.

A book of this description affects little other merit than that of industrious and judicious compilation; it thus affords small materials for criticism. We might here, perhaps, say a few words in favour of Biography, but having the life of Gibbon in view, which we propose to abstract, we are afraid of not finding room.

Edward Gibbon was born at Putney in 1737; his father, Edward Gibbon, esq. was a gentleman of family and fortune, who sat in two parliaments. Edward was the only child reared by his parents, and his constitution was so infirm in childhood, that his life was often despaired of. In his ninth year he was sent to the school of Dr. Woodeson, at Kingston-upon-Thames. After a residence of two years with this master, in which he acquired the rudiments of latin, he returned to his friends; and he has recorded his twelfth year, in which he read a variety of English books of poetry, romance, history, and travels, as "the most propitious to the growth of his intellectual statue." He was then entered at Westminster school; but repeated attacks of ill health prevented him from making a regular progress in the classical studies of the place; and he was more the nurseling of an affectionate aunt, with whom he boarded, than the adventurous school-boy.

After several changes of situation, in which he was chiefly the object of medical care, his constitution suddenly acquired firmness; and his father, with the idea of pushing him forward to manly acquisitions, placed him as a gentleman commoner in Magdalen College, Oxford, before he had completed his fifteenth year. He had already imbibed an extraordinary portion of historic knowledge by irregular and multifarious reading, which had stood in the place of the grammatical and philological studies usual in a literary progress at that period of life. "I arrived at Oxford," said he, 'with a stock of erudition that might have puzzled a doctor, and a degree of ignorance of which a school-boy would have been ashamed.'

In this state, it is evident he was ill prepared to receive the benefits, whatever they may be, of an university education; and this circumstance should operate as some counterpoise to the very bitter philippic he has pronounced against the conduct of public and private instruction at Oxford. The fourteen months he spent there, he stigmatizes as the most idle and unprofitable of his whole life; and he has given such a character of the university at the time he knew it, as may probably have considerably affected its reputation; and indeed (if a just one) ought so to do, unless it have stimulated the heads of the institution to subsequent exertions. To a total neglect of religious instruction, he has attributed the most remarkable incident of his early life, which took place at this time. From childhood he had been addicted to disputation on topics of divinity. His leisure from other pursuits induced him to turn his attention to the controversies between the papists and protestants; and as he entered into the field "without armour," he fell before the weapons of authority which the catholics so well know to wield. His conversion was entirely the effect of reading; and it was not till a perfect conviction had taken place in his mind, that he had an interview in London with a popish priest, at whose feet, in June 1753, he solemnly abjured the errors of heresy.

It was, as he informs us, on the 15th of October, 1764, as he sat musing amidst the ruins of the capitol at Rome, while the bare-footed friars were singing vespers in the temple of Jupiter, that the idea of writing the Decline and Fall of this City, first started into his mind. To treat some great historical subject had long been his favourite design, and he had fluctuated amidst a variety which presented themselves. Of these, perhaps, the most promising was the History of the Republic of Florence, under the house of the Medicis; but we cannot lament that he finally fixed upon a more extensive scheme.

His first work of any merit was a Pamphlet published in 1770, intituled, "Critical Observations on the Sixth Book of the Æneid," intended as a refutation of Dr. Warburton's extraordinary hypothesis concerning the meaning of the fabled descent of Æneas. This piece did not much captivate the public attention, but was pronounced by many able judges a very ingenious and elegant work of criticism not unworthy of the author's subsequent fame.

In 1774, he obtained a seat in the House of Commons, but, though he remained eight years in the senate, he never once found the courage to open his mouth. In 1776, the first volume, 4to. of his "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," was given to the public. His expectations of its success were very moderate; and it is not to be wondered at that he was much elated with the success it really met with, which he thus describes: "The first impression was exhausted in a few days; a second and a third edition were scarcely adequate to the demand; and the bookseller's property was twice invaded by the pirates of Dublin. My book was on every table, and almost on every toilet." Hume and Robertson were among those who were most liberal in their commendations.

In 1781, the second and third volumes of the "History" appeared, and though many readers judged them to be inferior in point of composition to the first, yet, upon the whole, they supported his reputation. At a new election he had lost his seat for Liskeard, but ministerial influence brought him in upon a vacancy for Lymington. It was not long, however, before the Board of Trade was abolished by Mr. Burke's bill. The prize being now lost, Gibbon seemed to think his parliamentary career terminated; and the defalcation of his income no longer permitted him to support the same style of living. He removed, therefore, to Lausanne in the autumn

autumn of 1783, where he lived like a man of letters and a gentleman of easy fortune.

During the four following years, he completed the three remaining quarto volumes of his " History," which were published together in 1788. Of a work so well known as Gibbon's " History of the Decline and Fall," it would be superfluous here to enter into any critical examination.

It seems generally acknowledged, that it is a performance of vast and accurate research, and of an enlarged and philosophical thinking; that it abounds in splendid passages and curious discussions; and that its style, though sometimes affected and obscure, through the desire of avoiding common modes of expression, is such as displays a thorough mastery of the whole compass of the English language.

The storm of the French revolution drove him from his retreat in Switzerland, and on this memorable event he thus expresses himself:—" I beg leave to subscribe my assent to Mr. Burke's creed on the revolution of France. I admire his eloquence; I approve his politics; I adore his chivalry, and I can almost excuse his reverence for church establishments." His return to England in 1793 was the immediate result of a call of friendship, which does honour to his heart; but in a few months after his return, he was arrested by the progress of a disease, which had subsisted above thirty years, but having long produced little inconvenience, was submitted to in silence. He was carried off by this disorder, after a mortification had been the result of many chirurgical operations, on April 16, 1794, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. Mr. Gibbon has given a picture of his own character—" I am endowed with a cheerful temper, a moderate sensibility, and a natural disposition to repose rather than activity; some mischievous appetites and habits have perhaps been corrected by philosophy and time. The love of study supplies each day, each hour, with a perpetual source of rational and independent pleasure."

He was easy in society, and fond of it: he was beloved by his friends, and had in an eminent degree the manners and sentiments of a gentleman. Early indulgence and habit had made the conveniences and elegance of cultured life essential to his comfort, and he was not one who could have been content with the consciousness of mental superiority in a humble state. After his death, two quarto volumes of his miscellaneous works were published by Lord Sheffield: of these the most valuable part is the memoirs of his ' Life and Writings,' composed by himself.

They are written in a very pleasing manner, and with much apparent frankness. Many of his letters are subjoined, which are lively and entertaining in the true epistolary style. The second volume contains a journal of his studies, with remarks upon books, chiefly in French; together with his smaller publications.

The General History of Inland Navigation; containing a complete Account of all the Canals of the United Kingdom, with their Variations and Extensions, according to the Amendments of Acts of Parliament, to June 1803. *And a Brief History of the Canals of Foreign Countries. By John Philips, sen. sometime Surveyor to the Canals in Russia, under Mr. Cameron, Architect to the late Empress, Catherine II.* 8vo. 600 pp. 10s. 6d. Baldwin, 1803.

THE importance of inland navigation to a kingdom like this, is universally acknowledged, and by the late ardour which has been evinced of engaging in projects of this kind it is evident that the public are acquainted with their full advantages. This ardour has sometimes produced much rash speculation, and many people have persuaded themselves, that every thing was

was to be gotten by water and nothing by land. It is indeed certain, that the conveyance of heavy manufactures, and the commodities of remote provinces, is cheaper and easier by water, and that a great saving is made to the consumer in not saddling him with the expences of land-carriage, at the same time that the cheapness of the commodity necessarily produces a larger consumption, and is thus equally beneficial to the buyer and the seller.

This is the whole theory of navigable canals, of which, as far as our power extends, we profess ourselves strenuous supporters.

The following work has been before the public in another shape. It was once printed in quarto, and is now prudently reduced to that size and cost which best suits the pockets of common readers. The author thus speaks in his preface—

'Notwithstanding the great success and approbation which my History 'of Inland Navigation, in one large volume quarto, has met, yet the expence 'of such a work in such a form being necessarily great, I have thought that, 'as every person, whether engaged in agriculture or commerce, is more or 'less interested in the inland navigation of the country, an abridged edition, 'at a price within the reach of almost every reader, could not fail to be highly 'useful and acceptable.

'In this edition, however, though much of the more unimportant passages 'of my large work has been omitted, yet many considerable additions and 'improvements have been made, and some errors have been corrected, and 'upon the whole I think it will be found as useful, and in some respects 'even superior to the original publication.

'Notwithstanding the great and obvious advantages which have been 'reaped from inland navigation, in every country where it has been practica-'ble by nature, or rendered so by art, prejudices still exist against it in the 'minds of many well-meaning though not well-informed persons. To 'bring to the more general knowledge of my countrymen the stupendous la-'bours which have been undertaken and accomplished by other nations, and 'the advantages which have resulted from them, and to trace the rise, the 'progress, and the consequence, of our own exertions in respect to inland 'navigation, are the principal purposes of this publication. Many schemes 'which have been proposed and afterwards abandoned will be here found 'recorded, and many hints are thrown out which may prove of service to 'future projectors.

'My having been employed in England by the Great Brindley, the father 'of English Canals; having been a prisoner on parole for some years in 'America; and having travelled with a particular view to make observations 'on the state of their internal navigations, through Holland, Germany, and 'Poland, to Russia, where I was employed by the government, will be al-'lowed perhaps to furnish reasonable pretensions to a proper knowledge of 'the subject.

'No pains have been spared in the collection of materials; I have availed 'myself of every act that has passed the British legislature on this subject, 'and also of every other publication within my knowledge, that could furnish 'me with information of any importance. I do not, however, suppose but 'that I have committed some mistakes; but as this kind of improvement is 'yet only in its infancy, the necessary information is more difficult to collect, 'and errors are not so easily avoided; and I shall consider myself greatly 'obliged to any gentleman for his friendly correction and information. I do 'not pretend to attain to elegance, but have endeavoured to be accurate and 'perspicuous; to this praise alone I aspire; and with a modest and well-'founded confidence, submit my performance to the judgment of an impartial 'and candid public.'

Next follows an introduction, in which the utility of Inland Navigation is very well discussed, and every thing, which can be said, advanced in its favour, without, indeed, the embellishment of style, but the irresistible cogency of truth. He adduces the example of many states in support of his arguments, and seems deficient in no learning illustrative of his subject.

'When the Europeans first discovered America,' says he, 'the Peruvians, who were, to a certain degree, a civilized nation, had no other methods of transporting goods and heavy materials but on porter's shoulders, or by the force of men's arms, and it has been supposed that 2,000 of them have been employed in removing one stone; a wide difference from modern times, when the improvements of mechanics in Europe will cause the same to be moved by five or six men, and with as little labour transported many miles on a canal. The cities, towns, and villages in Holland, have such a communication with each other by water, that they appear like streets of the same city in respect to the convenience of carriages; and from every town of any size, at fixed times, passage-boats go from and to the neighbouring towns, conveying passengers and goods at cheap rates, and not less certain than our stage-coaches.

'Till these advantages are adopted on our English canals, I shall not consider all the benefits to be received from them, which may be reasonably expected. The cheap and very pleasant conveyance by the Dutch trackskuyts are mentioned with satisfaction by all travellers in that country; in general the canals of England pass through a country far more pleasant, and more varied with hill and dale; the conveyance would be safe, and the voyage, if I may so term it, would, in the summer-season, be enchanting, enjoying motion without fatigue; and all the pleasures of travelling at a very small expence.

'Were we to make the supposition of two states, the one having all its cities, towns, and villages, upon navigable rivers and canals, that have an easy communication with each other, the other possessing only the common conveyance of land-carriage, and supposing at the same time both states to be equal as to soil, climate, and industry, commodities and manufactures in the former state might be expected 30 per cent. cheaper than in the latter, or in other words, the first state would be a third richer and more affluent than the second. This perhaps is one of the chief causes of the great wealth of China, which historians tell us is wholly intersected with navigable rivers and canals; Great Britain and Ireland might soon rival China in this last particular, and consequently their people in general might be more rich and affluent.

'There is yet one objection made to navigable canals, which I have not noticed, viz. that they waste or take up too great a portion of land in the countries through which they pass, but I hope it will be a full and cogent answer to this objection, that *one mile* of a canal, fourteen yards wide or broad, takes up little more than five acres of land. If these then are the great advantages of inland navigation, and if the objections raised against it are so weak, let us hope that the prejudices of the uninformed will not prevent any of the great and noble projects which yet remain to be executed.'

As this work is on a subject of political œconomy at all times interesting to the statesman, and indeed, to every class of readers, it cannot fail of a benevolent reception. It has likewise a good share of novelty to entitle it to public patronage, for the history of navigable canals, we believe, has never been so fully detailed upon by any author. But in estimating the advantages of inland navigation a constant reference must be had to time and place. We remember when this *mania*, we cannot well call it a *hydrophobia*, first seized upon the people of this kingdom; when all were solicitous

solicitous to embark in *cuts* and *canals*, and, if we may be allowed the pun, '*to go with the stream.*' We remember likewise a lamentable sight in the failure of many noble projects of this kind, and in the present day we have some examples near at hand.

Holland is not a case in point: the physical advantages of the country naturally make canals the best, perhaps the only mode of conveyance from one town to another; and in respect to China, we are not inclined to fetch our notions of domestic policy so far. But we have in our eye many noble navigations, from which temptations of the most usurious profits were held out, that are now falling concerns, wasting out a miserable and daily dwindling existence. Sometimes water is difficult to be had, sometimes the supply is only occasional; at other times it is exhausted by long and continued droughts, which has been the case in many canals during the present summer.

Land-carriage, on the contrary, is certain, and though more expensive, not more tedious.

It is our desire, therefore, to be understood as not objecting to canals in general, but recommending particular caution in engaging in them; perhaps one out of three has not been found to answer, and that, like the inclosure of a common, not till the third or fourth generation. The old proverb, that "Fools build houses, and wise men live in them," may be well applied to Inland Navigations, in which rash adventurers embark, and leave a future century after them.

The author of this work deserves the highest praise for his industry and good sense, and has our sincerest wishes that his book may pass into every body's hands.

The History of the Invasion of Switzerland by the French, and the Destruction of the Democratical Republics of Schwitz, Uri, and Unterwalden. By Henry Zschokke, National Prefect of the Canton of Basil; translated from the French of B Berattee, Secretary of Legation to the Helvetic Republic at Paris; with a Preface and Supplement, by the Translator. 8vo. 400 pp. 7s. bds. Longman and Rees, 1803.

THE oppression of the unhappy Swiss has been lamented by every feeling heart, and the offer which was made by this country, to concur with their own efforts in support of their freedom, and for that specific purpose to renew the war with France, must redound to the honour of the ministers who at that time conducted his Majesty's counsels. But in lamenting the fate of Switzerland, we must not shut our eyes against the causes of its ruin, which are to be found in a great measure amongst its own inhabitants. The distraction of its senates, the jacobinical fury of the lower classes, and the corruption of the chiefs, were all auxiliaries to the ambition of France, and in paralyzing the efforts of their country joined to render it an easy victim to a desperate conqueror. It was not the Barbarians who conquered Rome, but the luxury of the Romans that conquered themselves. It was not the French who subdued Switzerland, but the people, who distrusting one another, and thus wanting the most powerful impediment to an enemy's design, the bond of unanimity, enslaved themselves and their posterity.

The fate of Switzerland is an awful lesson to mankind, as it exhibits at the same time the atrocities of the French, and the fanciful schemes of liberty they played off to the people, in order that they might obtain footing in their country, and the causes which led to their success, in sowing discontent and animosity among them. The following work was originally written in German, and was received with avidity in the north of Europe;

it was afterwards translated into French, from which the present version is produced. It is extremely interesting, and seems written with fidelity; and if an additional cause of irritation were wanted against the French, it may be found in this book. The translation is vigorous and happy, though the sentences are sometimes entangled, and corrupted by a few gallicisms.

The History of the Rebellion in Ireland in the year 1798, *&c. containing an impartial Account of the Proceedings of the Irish Revolutionists, from the year* 1782, *till the Suppression of the Rebellion; with an Appendix to illustrate some facts. The second Edition, with considerable Additions; and a Preface containing a Reply to the Observations of Sir Richard Musgrave, Bart. upon this Work. By the Rev. James Gordon, &c. &c.* 8vo. 500 pp. 9s. 6d. Hurst, 1803.

IT does not fall in with our design to notice new editions of any work, unless some variations of consequence have been made from the first plan. This is the case with the present book. There has been much furious controversy between the writers on the Irish rebellion, and Sir Richard Musgrave is to be considered as the gentleman who began it. He is replied to by Mr. Gordon in a very long preface, and is treated with somewhat more acrimony than controversial decency can admit. We do not pretend to determine the merits of the question, but it is not difficult to decide that better manners would suit both. An appendix, with some very useful information, winds up the history of Mr. Gordon.

Sermons, chiefly designed to recommend the practical Morality of the Gospel, and intended for the use of Family Devotion. By a Layman, &c. &c. 300 pp. 5s. Robinsons, 1803.

THERE is certainly no objection to a layman's writing sermons, and some of the following will deserve the attention of the clergy of the established church, if they wish to improve in elegance of composition, and sound doctrinal christianity. They are not, perhaps, altogether regular, but *we can* discover no offensive heterodoxy.

A Letter to the Right Hon. Charles Abbot, Speaker of the House of Commons, containing an Enquiry into the most essential means of the improvement of the Coasts and Western Isles of Scotland, and the extension of the Fisheries: with a letter from Dr. Anderson to the Author, on the same subject. By Robert Frazer, Esq. 8vo. 100 pp. 3s. Nichol. 1803.

THIS is a matter of political œconomy, which seems unreasonably neglected. But if the fisheries of Scotland have been unnoticed by government, what shall we say of the Irish fisheries, where the prospect of success is so much better, and the conveniences greater, and where the majority of the inhabitants are buried in filth and poverty. This is a very sensible letter, but the author seems to prescribe the consumption of *fish* so generally, that we are afraid *flesh* and *blood* would not bear it.

Amadis de Gaul; a Poem, in three Books; freely translated from the first part of the French Version of Nicholas de Heberay, Sieur des essars; with Notes. By William Stewart Rose, Esq. 12mo. 200 pp. 6s. Cadell, 1803.

THE celebrated romance of Amadis of Gaul is known to every class of readers. It was a favourite in those days when chivalry was expiring, and the

the elegance and spirit of the work have always continued it a decent share of reputation. It was first published in Spanish and has been assigned to various authors, and various ages; but has of late been attributed, on the authority of Mr. Warton, to Vasco de Lobeya, a Portuguese. But the honour of having produced the writer of Amadis de Gaul is contended for by almost all the southern nations; seven cities contended for the birth of Homer; and as many nations claim the author of this popular romance. The present translator examines the question with much learning and ingenuity, and seems to determine it in favour of the French.

Our readers will be desirous of an extract: book the first:—

'What time the Romans drench'd proud Gaul with gore,
'The British Conon sack'd the Armoric shore;
'Strong cities raz'd, and on the unpeopled waste,
'A Baltic empire's firm foundation plac'd—
'The new dominion bore the British name,
'Its customs, policy, and laws the same.
'The sceptre of this land, in days of yore,
'A christian sovereign, nam'd Garinter, bore,—
'A virtuous consort fil'd the monarch's arms,
'From whom two daughters sprang of peerless charms,
'The first, for beauteous locks was widely fam'd,
'And hence, the lady of the garland nam'd:
'For wedded to Languines, Scotland's lord,
'The amorous king, his royal bride implor'd,
'That she nor coronal nor veil should wear,
'Nor ought to hide from view her shining hair;
'But ever on her brows with simple grace,
'A garland of o'ershadowing flowers place;
'Heaven on their union smil'd, and from this pair
'Sprang bold Agrayes, and Mebilia fair.
'The second daughter lovely Elisene,
'In comeliness surpass'd Albania queen;
'But wrapt in solitude, and fix'd on Heav'n,
'To her Redeemer all her thoughts were given;
'Hence styl'd, the lost recluse, she scorn'd the vows
'Of rival kings, who woo'd her for their spouse.'

If we were disposed to commend the present translation, we might perhaps have selected a more decent specimen, and put our readers in better humour with the poetry. But, unfortunately, too much is like this. The poetry is rugged, weak, lagging, and inharmonious, and we are fearful that Amadis de Gaul, in its present dress, will be no favourite with the English reader. The notes to this work, however, evince a considerable degree of learning and industry; they unfold many curious particulars relative to old customs, and will not be perused without pleasure and instruction.

The Lives of illustrious Seamen, including several hundred Naval Characters, alphabetically arranged: to which is prefixed a brief History of the Rise and Progress of the British Navy. 436 pp. 8s. bds. Hurst. 1803.

THIS little biographical dictionary is very well printed, and industriously compiled; it comes within a pocket-size, and forms a useful and pleasing companion. The history of our naval commanders is so intimately connected

connected with the glory and extending empire of this kingdom, that we wished to see it well compiled, and reduced to a small size and price. The present publication has not disappointed us, and we wish it the success it deserves, and will assuredly obtain.

Lucy Osmond: A Story. 12mo. 200 pp. Robinsons. 1803.

THIS story is too much in the style of the other novels of the day. It is full of domestic distress, which is relieved with little nature, and incurred with little reason. The incidents are trite; the characters common, and the sentiments thread-bare; the diction, however, is pure and vigorous, and the writer, whom we imagine to be young, may in time do better things.

The National Defence; a Sermon, preached in the Parish Churches of Wainfleet, All Saints, and Thorpe, in the county of Lincoln, on Sunday the 7th of August, 1803. The day on which "Important considerations for the people of this kingdom," were distributed amongst the Inhabitants of the above-named Parishes. By the Rev. Peter Bulmer, A. B. Vicar of Thorpe, and Chaplain to the Right Hon. Lord Muncaster. 8vo. 50 pp. price 6d. Spragg, Covent-Garden.

IT has seldom fallen to our lot to peruse a more vigorous and inspiriting publication than the present, and one that is more likely to answer the purposes of the author. It is written with animation, chastity, and a classical taste, which we hope to be exhibited in larger compositions.

Walks and Sketches at the Cape of Good Hope; to which is subjoined a Journey from Cape Town to Blettenberg's Bay. By Robert Semple. 12mo. 160 pp. 3s. 6d. Baldwin, 1803.

THESE sketches are full of amusing descriptions and characteristic observations, and this pedestrian tourist of the Cape may be pronounced upon the whole a sensible and entertaining companion. The work is composed with a kind of levity and carelessness, which the author has persuaded himself to think very *taking*, but which we can assure him is very likely to disgust. He affects likewise a *nonchalance* in respect to his work which must be dissembled; every one, if he does not write to be read, at least publishes to have his book known. 'But when I call upon you, kind 'reader,' says he, 'do not imagine that I want to coax you to read my 'book.' Indeed I look upon the words 'courteous readers,'—"craves the indulgence of a generous public," and so forth, with which prefaces generally abound to be mere matter of course, and matter of nonsense, for if the public like the book, they will read it, and if they do not, they will let it alone, and so there is an end of the matter. The author atones for this folly by some better *stuff*, and it is thus forgiven him; but he should remember the old maxim, that he who is ambitious of being thought a *jolly fellow*, runs the hazard of being reputed a *dull one*.

Improvements in Education, as it respects the industrious Classes of the Community; containing a short Account of its present State; Hints towards its improvement; and a detail of some practical Experiments conducive to that end. By Joseph Lancaster. 8vo. 70 pp. 1s. Hatchard, 1803.

THIS little tract meets with our hearty approbation, and though it is scarcely possible to deliberate too much, before any innovation in the general

general system of education among the poorer classes is adopted, yet this, on the fullest consideration, we pronounce salutary and judicious. We approve of the principles of the author, and the spirit of piety and truth which pervades his publication.

Fugitive Sketches; or, the History and Natural Beauties of Clifton Hot-Wells, and Vicinity. By G. W. Manby, Esq. 8vo. 100 pp. 7s. 6d. Robinsons. 1803.

OF the merits of the Hot-wells we are qualified to speak, having received great benefits from them; but having never before explored the natural history of the place, we have to thank this author. He has brought the scenery to our remembrance which an absence of thirty years had almost effaced, and we may be said to live again in the recollection of the past.

FRENCH BOOKS.

Bibliographie Astronomique, avec l'Histoire de l'Astronomie depuis 1781 *jusqu'à* 1802. Bibliography of Astronomy, with the history of that science from 1781 to 1802. By Jerome de Lalande. 4to. 930 pp. 18 fr.

A WORK in which 3500 writers on astronomy are treated of cannot but be interesting to all those who have any taste for that science. M. de Lalande has made it his study for fifty-seven years; and he began the compilation of this bibliography in 1775. The utility of a work of this description has long been felt; Weidler and Scheibel began one, and Bailly, in his history of modern astronomy published in 1779, gave a catalogue of the oriental manuscripts, relative to astronomy, dispersed through the different libraries of Europe. When the third volume of his work appeared in 1782, he intended to add to it a bibliography, but when he was informed of the progress which M. de Lalande had already made, he abandoned the idea. Thus our author found himself obliged to fulfil the engagement he had entered into with Bailly and the public.

When M. de Lalande published, in 1781, the fourth volume of his astronomy, as a sequel to the second edition of 1771, he announced that the bibliography might form a fifth. This design was prevented by various circumstances, and the bibliography did not make its appearance.

Being unable to find a bookseller willing to engage in an undertaking of such magnitude, M. de Lalande in the *Connoissance des Temps* of the year 1796, expressed his doubts whether the work would ever appear, and M. Scheibel proposed to him to publish it in his Bibliography. When, however, M. Francois de Neufchateau became minister of the interior, and M. Guingené director of public instruction, the author proposed to them to print it at the expence of government, candidly mentioning the objections that might be made to the utility of a work of this nature. They, however, formed a favourable opinion of it, and the minister ordered it to be printed on the 5th of October, 1797. It has consequently been several years in hand, on account of the embarrassments in the national printing establishment; and the author announces supplements to it, which will appear in the *Connoissance des Temps* for the year 1806, which is already printing. He shews the impossibility of making a complete bibliography; it may be seen from M. Scheibels' work, which has only come down to the year 1650 (20 numbers are already published) how difficult it is to acquire a knowledge of every thing in any branch of science whatever. The comet of 1618 alone furnishes him with 46 articles. He has only three on that of 1591, and Scheibel has twenty. In the present work the author has borrowed merely the titles of the books from M. Scheibel, his learned notes being much

too

too diffuse for the plan of M. de Lalande. The plan of the former is indeed so extensive, that he can scarcely be expected, at his advanced age, to complete what he has undertaken.

In this book we find a notice on all the astronomers, both ancient and modern, from Empedocles, who composed a treatise on the sphere 430 years before our æra, and of all the works printed from the year 1473 to 1802, with notes on the most important of them, and anecdotes of the authors. 'Yet,' says the author, 'I lay no claim to the merit of erudition; 'it would have been necessary to consult a multitude of authors of every 'kind, of catalogues, the annals of printing, &c. this is a kind of labour too 'different from that to which I have exclusively devoted myself, on account 'of the small number of those who bestow attention to it,' M. Mercier, the Abbé de St. Leger, one of the greatest bibliographers of the present day, and who read the commencement of Scheibel's bibliography, at the solicitation of M. de Lalande, furnished him with corrections relative to the writers on astronomy, their names, the time in which they lived, the editions of their works, the dates of those editions, the printers, and the errors in the impression.

He complained, that Scheibel had not consulted with attention, even the bibliographers of his own country, as Lambacher, Freitag, Schelhorn, Zapf, Vogt, Fabricius, the Pandects of Gesner, Spachius, in his *Nomenclator scriptorum philosophicorum*, Cornelius de Berghem, &c. and still less foreigners, as Mazucelli, Zaccheria, Laire, Apostolo Zeno, Tiraboschi, Quetif, Echard, de Villiers, Bandini, Menckenius, Boyer, David Clement, and the most accurate of all Father Audiffredi of Rome.

He afterwards shews how many more authors might have been consulted, and that there is scarcely any work, but would contribute to our astronomical knowledge, if we had time to search it.

'For my part," says M. de Lalande, 'the numerous important things 'that remain to be done for astronomy, and age which restrains my designs 'and limits my hopes, made me abandon the idea of such an enterprize; 'I should have done an injury to astronomy, to which I particularly devote 'my labours, as well as to myself and those around me; and the advantage 'I should have derived would not have compensated the time that would 'have been employed in it.'

When the bibliography, which occupies 660 pages, was printed the author thought, that considering it as a supplement to Bailly's history of astronomy, it would be necessary to add a notice on the progress of astronomy since 1781, where Bailly's concluded. This notice, it is true, had before appeared in the different volumes of the *Connoissance des Temps*.

This volume likewise contains long historic notices on astronomers, who died within these few years, as Pingré, Lemonnier, the president de Saron, Dusejour, &c. That of Madame Lepaute may serve as a model, and an encouragement to the sex. He has also introduced the date of the birth of living astronomers, and enumerated their works, together with the principal memoirs that have been inserted for several years, in the volumes of forty-two academies. He had drawn up a catalogue of all the memoirs on this subject, from the foundation of all these academies, but he durst not swell this collection with a second volume, for the purpose of introducing it. He ought perhaps to have done so to complete the most extensive work that exists on the literary history of astronomy.

Malesherbes; Malesherbes. By M. de Lille de Salles, of the national institute. 8vo. 3fr. 75c.

'THE Dracos of the French Revolution would have written the life of 'Malesherbes only with blood; a good man who, after the insurrection of

'Thermidor, had the courage to scatter flowers over his tomb, wrote it 'with his tears.* For our part, after an interval of ten years, when the 'most opposite political opinions begin to be concentrated in one point, 'when animosities, suppressed by an equality in misfortune, are all but ex-'tinguished; when, after encountering so many storms, we are at length arrived 'in port, it is time to restore to history its natural colours and its dignity; 'it is time to borrow, if it be possible, the pen which has endeared to us 'the memory of Aristides and Phocion, in order to describe the last hero 'of modern times.'

Such is the course which the author has marked out for himself, and he never digresses from it. He describes his hero as possessing all the advantages of nature and fortune, and on this very account considering himself the more obliged to cultivate his reason and his understanding; as an honest and impartial magistrate, when placed at the head of one of the first tribunals of the empire; as an active and benevolent philosopher, when in the bosom of his sequestered retreat he resigned himself to the useful labours of agriculture.

Called by his prince and the public voice into the midst of a tumultuous court, Malesherbes soon perceived that the evil had made too lamentable a progress, to be stopped in its course by the voice of a single wise man; he mourned the misfortunes to which he was witness, as well as those which he foresaw, and returned to his peaceful retirement, resigning without pain the honours which he had accepted with regret.

The political horizon was more and more obscured. The monarch incapable of holding with a firm hand the reins of a restless government, fell by degrees to the lowest depth of misfortune. Every one fled, fearing to be overwhelmed in his fall. It was then that Malesherbes hastened to the assistance of him whom all had abandoned, and that he wrote the celebrated letter, which his historian does not fail to introduce verbatim, and which will doubtless be considered by posterity as his strongest claim to immortal glory.

Convinced before-hand of the consequences of his zeal, Malesherbes, without surprise and without fear, saw himself implicated in a proscription, in which his virtues and his talents entitled him to be included. He preserved his serenity to his last moment, and crowned a life of unsullied integrity with an heroic death.

Such are the affecting pictures which M. de Lille de Salles presents in review. He has added those details of private life, which are so interesting to the reader when they relate to a truly great man. He has likewise annexed a notice on the principal works of M. Malesherbes, and an interesting analysis of a book in his library, written during the reign of Henry III. that bears the most striking analogy to the events of the eighteenth century, which it seems to predict.

Essai de Statique Chimique: Essay on Chemical Statics. By M. Berthollet. In 2 vols. 8vo. 12fr.

IN giving the title of Essay to his work, M. Berthollet, one of the first chemists in Europe, affords an instance of remarkable modesty.

Chemical Statics, or the mutual action of the particles of bodies on each other, contain the most important phenomena of chemistry. Thus an essay on this subject, by such a great master, is a complete treatise on chemistry.

* The author alludes to M. Dubois, now a prefect of one of the departments of France, who wrote an historic notice, on Lamoignon Malesherbes.

In the first section of the first part of this work, the author lays down general principles on the force of cohesion, on dissolution, the reciprocal action of substances held in solution, and on combination.

When he descends to details he treats of the reciprocal action of acids and alkalis; the action of an acid on a neutral combination, of precipitates produced by acids or alkalis, of the reciprocal action of neutral combinations, of the comparative capacity of the saturation of acids and alkalis.

He then turns his attention to one of the most powerful agents of nature, and examines the different states of caloric, independent of those of combination; he describes its different states, which leads him to the action of light, and the electric fluid, and lastly, he considers caloric relative to its combinations.

In treating of the effect of expansion and condensation in elastic substances, he is conducted to the examination of the characteristic properties of elastic fluids, and the affinity resulting from them.

The limits of combination furnish him with the occasion to seek the proportion of the elements in combination, in general, of describing the action of dissolvents, of effervescence and the propagation of chemical action. He then rises to the atmosphere, examines its constitution, and analyses the elementary parts of atmospheric air.

In the second part of his work, the author presents the most interesting developements, on oxygenal substances, considered as analogous to oxygen, and to each other. He then treats of acids, first relative to their composition, and then passes to those which are commonly denominated vegetable acids, but which he calls ternary acids. These descriptions and analyses are succeeded by those of alkalis and earths.

In his exposition of metallic substances, he describes the reciprocal action of metals, oxyds, metallic solutions, and precipitates the combination of metallic substances with sulphur, phosphorus, and carbon. On this occasion he introduces the observations on the properties of metallic solutions, presented and read to the National Institute, on 22 Ventose and 7 Floreal, of the year 11 (1803.) The work concludes with an appendix on vegetable and animal substances.

With the same modesty, that we have already remarked, the learned chemist declares, that he is convinced that within the discussion of the principles which he has laid down, and in the numerous applications which he has presented, it is possible he may frequently have trusted to facts which are not sufficiently confirmed, may have attributed to a cause effects which are independent of it, and have given too much weight to ideas which are only conjectural. Such an avowal must do infinite honour to the author.

Memoires sur la Collection des grands et des petits Voyages, et sur la Collection des Voyages de Melchisedeck Thevenot: Memoirs on the collection of great and small Voyages, and of Thevenot's Voyages and Travels. By A. G. Camus, of the National Institute, 4to. 401 pp.

BY the title of the *Collection of great and small Voyages*, bibliographers designate a collection begun by Theodore de Bry, composed of several folio volumes, and comprising various voyages to the East and West Indies. The volumes which relate to the East Indies are of rather a larger size than those concerning the West Indies, which circumstance has caused the former to be called the great voyages, and the other small voyages. This denomination, though by no means correct, if considered relative to the countries traversed by the travellers, has been generally adopted in France.

The collection of great and small voyages is seldom to be met with complete; a copy of the first edition is of great value, particularly if the plates which are numerous are good impressions. Many bibliographers have given descriptions of this collection, and several marks for discovering the best edition, both on account of the text and the plates. None of these descriptions are complete; the collection being only considered in a bibliographic view, so that they are only calculated to direct the amateur in his choice of a good copy of a scarce work. M. Camus has undertaken to complete the description of what this collection ought to contain, and to give the necessary indications for the selection of the copies. He has likewise considered the collection in a literary view, that is, he has sought what might render it as useful to the studious man as agreeable to the amateur; and as the collection is of considerable importance to geography and history, M. Camus has communicated his memoir to the class of moral and political sciences of the National Institute. This memoir related only to the great and small voyages; but at the desire of the class, the author added a similar notice on the collection of Melchisedeck Thevenot, and he there considered the two collections of de Bry and Thevenot in a third point of view, by making known their contents; giving a notice on each of the pieces composing the collection, in order to inform those who do not possess these scarce collections, what they might find in them, and pointing out such objects as are particularly worthy of attention.

This notice is a useful and necessary supplement to the collection of the Abbé Prevost, who in his collection has only made extracts of part of the narratives of de Bry.

The work was originally intended to have been inserted among the memoirs of the National Institute, but being found of too great length, the Institute ordered it to be printed separately.

The volume concludes with two indexes; one of the names of the authors whose works are contained in the collections, and the other of the subjects treated of.

Medecine Maternelle, ou l'Art d'elever et conserver les Enfans: Maternal Medicine; or, the Art of rearing and preserving Children. By Alphonse Leroy, 8vo. 400 pp.

WE very often complain, and with justice, of the superabundance of useless books, or men without experience, and consequently without any real knowledge, who serve up the little they have learned in a hundred different forms. We have equal subject of complaint when men of experience neglect to publish the fruits of their long labours, and the study of their lives. Such is the reproach that might have been made to M. Leroy, if, after so many years of practice in the healing art, but particularly in what concerns women and children, he had longer delayed to present to the public the work here announced. It is not a book compiled from other books; it is the fruit of long experience, the result of varied and profound study, and that philosophic mind, without which neither practice nor study are availing. There is not a mother to whom this work may not be useful, by giving a proper direction to her tenderness, by preserving her from the errors and even the excess of that delicious sentiment, by making her acquainted with the effects of negligence, and of misplaced fondness.

Rousseau was undeniably the benefactor of infancy, and of social order. But the false interpretation, and the blind application of his principles, which may be prejudicial in the organisation of civil society, may be equally detrimental in the management and treatment of infants. M. Al-

phonse Leroy shews even in his Frontispiece, that it is his intention to guard parents against the abuse of the doctrine of the author of *Emile*. The principal figure is a mother bestowing on her children those judicious attentions, prescribed in the *Medecine Maternelle*, and gathering the fruits of them. Above another woman, a passionate admirer of Rousseau, whom she has not understood, is represented weeping over the corpse of her son extended on her knees—the fatal consequence of too light clothing, and cold bathing.

But in combating a practice which he considers erroneous, and the melancholy effects of which he proves to the reader, the author is far from joining in those reproaches which have been lavished upon the eloquent writer, to whom men of every age are under such great obligations.

In one chapter of his work, in which he particularly attacks the abusive employment of cold, in the education of early infancy, he attributes to the false reasoning of a few physicians, this error which afterwards misled so many philosophers. The first whom he accuses of it is Locke, at the same time a philosopher and a physician, who directed that children should be inured to cold. Floyer, another English physician, augmented the error; he ordered the use of the cold-bath for children, and when mothers, by mere instinct, refused to conform to this harsh mode of treatment, he threatened the whole English nation with the rickets and king's evil. 'Jean 'Jacques,' adds our author, 'unfortunately for humanity which he 'cherished, fell into the error adopted by Locke and Floyer, and this 'error, with the additional weight of his name, bore cruelly upon in-'fancy, which he wished to strengthen.' By such a tone of moderation and justice a writer commands attention, even when he contradicts the most celebrated authorities.

Two things appear eminently conspicuous throughout this work, besides the vast knowledge that must be attributed to the author; these are, a great love of children, and a particular attention to employ, in the highly interesting purpose of their preservation, all the improvements made in late years in the physical sciences. This is a twofold motive of confidence in the advice given by the author and the treatment he prescribes.

He takes up the child from the birth, and gives directions for preventing the accidents to which that operation is liable. He principally recommends whatever is capable of promoting free respiration, considering the duration of life, as depending on the proper developement of the lungs. He likewise says, that the infant, from its first moments of existence, should receive the influence of the mother's affectionate caresses, and the humid warmth of her embrace. Here he combats what may be termed the system of the frigidists, and shews on the one hand the almost inevitable dangers of habitual cold, on the other the advantages of warmth, and distinguishes with equal justice and sagacity the different kinds of warmth, and their various effects upon life and health.

Among the subjects arising from the earliest cares due to infancy, that of maternal suckling is one of the most important. M. Alphonse Leroy does not decide positively respecting it; but in either case he gives judicious advice for mothers, and excellent directions for nurses. To give an idea of his method on one of the subjects of more general interest, we shall here introduce the substance of his twelfth chapter, entitled, *Practical and Miscellaneous Observations on Suckling*.

'Ought all mothers to suckle? This question would not admit of a doubt 'if all mothers possessed a sound constitution; if breathing a free salubrious 'air, they at the same time took such food as is proper for producing nou-'rishing milk. The child derives the greatest advantage when it can be 'suckled by a mother, who, to these advantages, unites purity of morals,

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'a good understanding, and a finished education. Certainly, such a mother must impart to her child, with the vital principle, more sensations, and with those sensations a direction that a stranger could with difficulty give. By her touch and by her caresses she will render her child more sensible and good-natured, more affectionate, cheerful, and lively.

'But unfortunately, in cities the liquors are less wholesome, and are in general adulterated. Both the women and the children breathe an air less pure, frequently charged with miasmata, if not deleterious, at least debilitating. The air of cities contains less of the principle of pure humidity. This is compensated, it is true, by food of a better and more perfect quality; but the humours of the mother being sometimes altered, and sometimes weakened, seldom produce for the child milk of the quality which it ought to possess. Thus it is more on a moral than a physical account that suckling is of importance to children. But when women have in their youth been affected with lymphatic complaints, it must not be forgotten, that the radical constitution of children depends much more upon the mother than the father, and that consequently the mother's defects are much more certainly transmitted to them. These complaints sometimes appear to be extinguished, but the formation of the milk, opening the cellular tissue of the female economy, the virus, is again developed, and exercises its ravages both upon the mother and the child.

'Thus there are mothers, who ought to be prevented from suckling instead of being persuaded to it. It is the business of physicians, who have attended to this important subject, and have united experience to philosophic meditations, to distinguish the mothers who are capable of suckling, and to direct them in this important duty, which is much more difficult in a town than in the country.'

In cases, which are very frequent, where the mother cannot suckle without danger to her child and herself, the choice of a nurse becomes an important concern. Nothing is indifferent; neither the constitution, manners, character, the air which she breathes, the place where she resides, nor the age of her milk, in proportion to the age of the child which is entrusted to her. The author gives directions to assist in the selection of a proper person, and to guide both nurses and mothers. In this chapter, and in the two preceding, he treats in the most satisfactory manner of the different qualities which milk ought to possess; on the vital element which it contains, an element perfectly different from its alimentary principle, a volatile gaseous principle, which escapes as soon as the air comes in contact with the milk. He likewise furnishes the means of discovering when milk contains a small proportion of this vital principle; those of correcting and improving it; and in short, discusses all the secondary subjects which arise out of the great question, the suckling of children.

He treats, with equal care, of the food and drink that ought to be given to children, together with the mother's or nurse's milk; of nutrition in general; the manner in which it operates, and the method of accelerating and aiding it; he distinguishes, in a luminous manner, what belongs to nutrition, and to growth, and the disorders, which arise from the vices of the one, or the difficulties of the other. He recommends that great attention be paid to the skin of children, to promote insensible transpiration, and demonstrates the necessity of a pure free air, and almost continual motion.

Dentition, that important and frequently terrible crisis for infancy, likewise claims his attention; and he then describes in detail the treatment of all the infirmities which attack this first stage of life. He concludes with some general ideas on the remedies to be employed in the maladies of children. He reduces them to a small number, and their treatment to processes

cesses so simple, that an intelligent mother or nurse find here, in a few pages, sufficient rules of practical medicine, and a complete pharmacopeia.

One of these remedies, for which he appears to have the greatest predilection, and which may be said to belong peculiarly to him, is the application of leeches in many of the disorders of children, and particularly in convulsions arising from obstructions of the blood in the brain. In his thirty-second chapter, where he treats of that disorder, he gives the history of his discovery of this process, of the experiments and deductions which led him to it, and of the fatal consequences to the Dauphin, the eldest son of Louis XVI. arising from the refusal to follow the advice which he gave, relative to the use of this remedy, and its salutary effects on the king's second son. In these details, and in general through the whole work we discover the attentive and acute observer, the learned naturalist, the physician devoted to his profession, and actuated by the desire of contributing to its progress.

It is impossible for us to give more than a very imperfect idea of a work so rich in facts, processes, and principles; of a work in which nothing is given for embellishment, or out of ostentation, where all is substance, and which is filled with ingenious ideas and extensive views.

At the termination of his introduction, the learned and sensible professor utters a wish to the sincerity of which his whole work bears witness.—'Thus,' says he, 'may the benefits of true medicine, extend more and 'more to the early stage of life! This is the blessing I should wish to leave 'behind me; it is my principal desire. If I were to form another it should 'be that of Anaxagoras. The inhabitants of Lampsacus, grateful for the 'benefits they owed to his wisdom, asked him, at the approach of death, 'how he wished his memory to be honoured: Give your children a holi-'day, said he, on the day that I cease to live.' The author of the *Medecine Maternelle* may aspire to higher rewards; he needs not any monument of public gratitude. Every good man, every friend of humanity, who reads his work, will not fail to hail him as the friend of mothers, and the benefactor of children.

Principes de Physiologie: Principles of Physiology; or, Introduction to the experimental, philosophical, and medical Knowledge of the living man. By M. Dumas, of the National Institute, Professor of the School of Medicine of Montpellier. Vol. IV.

EVERY one who is at all acquainted with the history of the sciences knows what progress has been made of late years in that of physiology; but it is not so generally known, that almost the whole merit belongs to one of the most distinguished members of the School of Montpellier. It may even be said with some justice, that to him are owing the many excellent works on this subject, that have appeared in France within these few years. The opinion of men of superior talents usually directs that of their age; and at length their peculiar manner of viewing a subject is adopted by all. It is thus that the doctrine established by M. Dumas, and publicly taught by that professor during fifteen years, has been adopted by almost all those who have written or treated of the same subject, even long before the publication of the Principles of Physiology.

The volume here announced treats of the functions of composition, or the functions relative to the constituent principles of the animal; that is, of every thing belonging to food, and the action exercised upon it by man, in order to renew his strength or promote his growth. In the course of this work there are few points on which the author does not present new ideas

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and theories. To convince himself of this the reader need only to cast his eyes on what he says concerning the character and quality of aliments, the effects and causes of hunger and thirst, the phenomena of digestion, the secretion of the gastric juice, the formation of chyle, &c.

In treating of nutrition, one of the first questions that must occur is—of what nature is that active and imperious sensation, which requiring sometimes solids, sometimes liquids, entirely changes, when it cannot be satisfied, the nature of the function of the animal, and sometimes impels it to the most violent excesses? Before he answers this question, M. Dumas destroys all the false theories that have hitherto been established to explain the phenomena of hunger and thirst. The attentive examination of these phenomena, considered relative to a state of sickness and health, appeared at first to demonstrate, that hunger is more closely connected with the lymphatic, and thirst with the vascular system, and that each of these affections expressed, in a particular manner, the state of those two systems. But these were only suppositions, which the author proved by a series of experiments equally ingenious and novel. It results from them that hunger indicates inactivity and debilitation of the powers, and thirst their increase or excitation; that the first of these affections is more asthenic and nervous; the second more sthenic and inflammatory. The opium, spirituous liquors, aromatics, and mercurial preparations, which M. Dumas administered to the animals on which he made his experiments, prevented, and even abated thirst. Therefore the action which these same substances are known to possess, for moderating the activity of the lymphatic system, establishes a close connection and an almost perfect analogy between those two phenomena. With regard to thirst, that as well as hunger is an affection of the sensitive system; but it is produced by a very different cause. The animals that were made to endure thirst for a considerable time; those which were suffered to die in the excruciating torments with which that state is accompanied, exhibited signs of manifest inflammation in some parts of the stomach and other viscera. In the same experiments, the blood drawn from the vessels before the death of the animal was covered with a thick reticular crust, like that proceeding from inflammation. These experiments are further supported, by an observation made by M. Prunelle, formerly a physician in the army of the east. A sapper of the third regiment, who had long been troubled with the scurvy, was attacked by such excessive thirst, at a time when it was impossible to procure the means of allaying it, that he drank his urine, and died seven or eight days afterwards. His body was opened; the stomach was sound, but the intestines were destroyed; the mesentery and spleen exhibited manifest symptoms of phlagosis, which appeared in some parts to have turned to gangrene. These phenomena were very improperly attributed at the time to the irritating action of the urine; they appear exactly of the same nature as the experiments by which M. Dumas discovered that hunger is usually excited by the direct stimulants of the nervous and lymphatic systems, and thirst on the contrary, by those of the vascular system.

After speaking of aliments, and the essentially nutritive principles they contain, of their different influence according to the different kingdoms of nature from which they are taken, and of their assimilation to the particles of the animal body, the author passes to the consideration of the laws by which this assimilation is produced, which, according to M. Dumas, depend upon a power that M. Dumas calls the assimilative, and which may be reduced to the following axioms.

1. The action of the assimilative power depends greatly upon the dispositions in which the animal happens to be, and its results vary in consequence.

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2. It is modified in a remarkable manner by the very impression of the aliment; thus its effects cannot always be considered the same.

3. The intensity of the action of this power is not in proportion to the physical qualities of the organs, by means of which the assimilation is effected.

5. The effects of the assimilative power operate on the elementary parts, on the constituent principles of substances submitted to its action; and they extend to the very last particles.

5. The elaborations of the assimilative power are divided between the nutritive substances, and the principles of every substance always in proportion to their susceptibility of assimilation. Its elaborations are likewise modified by the quantity, mass, volume, proportions, solubility and cohesion of the elementary substances.

6. The assimilative power presupposes the performance of certain preliminary actions, which submit to its operation the substances upon which it is to act. These actions vary much in their number and complication in the different species of animals.

7. Lastly, the laws of assimilation cannot be compared to the general laws of the motions of bodies, since all the possible combinations of known movements may be tried without producing any thing resembling the change, which food undergoes in our organs, the intestinal operation of the assimilative movement.

These two examples are doubtless sufficient to inspire the most favourable idea of the work of M. Dumas, whether considered with respect to the facts and experiments with which it is filled, or examined with regard to the philosophic spirit with which they are combined. Yet if we may be permitted a few observations on the work of such a great master, we cannot refrain from thinking that the division of the functions, grounded on the consideration of the different organic systems, will lead the author into too great prolixity, when he applies it to diseases, humours, and remedies. Whether this objection be well founded or not, it cannot add to or detract materially from the real merit of the work; which differs widely in this respect, from that multitude of modern books, all the new ideas in which consist of far-fetched combinations, and frivolous divisions, which when united bear a striking resemblance to the quirks of scholastic philosophy.

Correspondance originale et inedite de J. J. Rousseau, avec Madame de Franqueville et M. Dupeyrou: Original and unpublished Correspondence of J. J. Rousseau, with Madame de Franqueville and M. Dupeyrou; 3 vols. 12mo.

IS it of much importance to know, that two women charmed with reading the nouvelle Heloise, likewise conceived a tender passion for its author, and insisted upon entering into a correspondence with him? One of them modestly stiles herself *Claire*, and gives her friend the name of *Julie*, and both of them write to Rousseau. They both describe themselves as young and handsome; as it appears that they actually were: their letters prove that they possessed sense and imagination. Jean Jacques at first replied with galantry, and afterwards with tenderness, to their declarations, but this more than platonic love soon cooled, and was extinguished in him, perhaps for want of nourishment. In vain Julie became pressing; made tender reproaches, and complained of neglect; Rousseau neither could nor would confine himself to a strict and regular correspondence; he sometimes abused his votary without discouraging her; the unhappy passion lasted a long time; she kept as a sacred treasure the few letters she received from him,

him, and took copies of those which she wrote in far greater numbers. Such is the collection here given to the public. The two females by whom they were written were, doubtless, not of the common stamp; their letters are proofs of it; they cannot without injustice be denied to possess considerable merit; but yet there is nothing striking or curious in this correspondence, excepting the motive which gave occasion to it.

In this collection we likewise find the letters of Jean Jacques to his friend Dupeyrou; they relate to his celebrated quarrel with David Hume; but they afford much less insight into it than his memoirs and some other writings of the day; the bottom of this affair has not yet been brought to light, and perhaps never will be.

One melancholy truth, which is but too strongly confirmed by this new collection of letters, is, that Rousseau paid a painful tribute to humanity, by his continual suspicions and mistrust; he was not exempt from them, even towards his best friends. He imagined himself hated, persecuted by all his contemporaries, while there was not a young man of birth, or a sensible woman that was not his enthusiastic admirer. For some time it has been the fashion to load his memory with abuse, both in prose and verse; but his works are his best defence, and will ensure him the love and admiration of all who are worthy to read them, who will be equally disposed to revere his virtue, and to acknowledge his rare talents.

Cours de Morale, a l'usage de jeunes Demoiselles: A Course of Morality, for the use of young Ladies. By François de Sales Amalric. 2 vols. 12mo. 5fr.

THE more this work is known, the more the author will be congratulated on having devoted his talents to the instruction of young ladies, in their most important duties. He has revived the ancient and admirable division of our duties towards God, towards our neighbour, and ourselves, by presenting to young persons, in fourteen discourses, their duties towards the Deity, their relations, and those who superintend their education, the errors they ought to avoid, the virtues they ought to practise in the intercourse with their companions; the merit they should exert themselves to acquire; the simplicity that becomes them; the sensibility they ought to display in the different circumstances of life, the dispositions they ought to adopt, relative to their settlement in life, and lastly, the risks they run upon their entrance into the world.

Such are the subjects of the discourses composing M. Amalric's Course of Morality. The didactic method which he has employed is most capable of making an impression upon youth. His principles are accompanied with a multitude of examples from history; the French revolution furnished him with many of great interest; but they have no other aim than to warn youth against the illusions of prosperity, too frequently temporary, or to fortify them against the almost inevitable strokes of adversity.

Each discourse is divided and subdivided with such art, as to excite, without fatiguing the attention, and with such variety of talent, as to produce in the reader's mind the most agreeable surprise.

But it is time to justify, by a few quotations, the impression made upon us by the perusal of these discourses.

In that which treats of the relations of youth with the Deity, the author describes God as a father who can do all things, a witness who sees, a judge who judges every action, and a friend who affords consolation in every circumstance of life. He proves the latter by shewing, that neither reason nor the world can impart comfort under the misfortunes inseparable from

humanity. 'And how is it possible,' says he, 'that reason should? alas! 'far from causing us to forget the accumulated evils which time has heaped 'upon our heads, it afflicts us with presenting to our eyes future misfor- 'tunes that will perhaps never happen; far from imparting to the inmost 'depths of the heart, that sweet consolation which makes us bless the hand 'by which we are afflicted; it penetrates the most secret recesses of the 'soul, to instil into them the poison prepared by its continual reflections; 'and engraving on the memory recollections which years can not efface, 'and losing in order to prevent pain, that force which it ought usefully to 'employ, if it sometimes persuades us of the necessity of submission, it sel- 'dom procures for us the advantage of being submissive.

'Can the world? alas, those actuated by the best intentions are obliged 'to abandon you to your griefs, that they may not rouse your impatience, 'and the greatest service they can render you, is to assist you to forget your 'pains by appearing ignorant of them. Plays, diversions, feasts, call them 'away; how can they assume the gloomy disposition of mind which over- 'clouds your days? Amidst the tumultuous intercourse in which they seek 'dissipation, they are themselves too unhappy to attend to the miseries of 'others. Besides your long prosperity aggravated them; they were weary 'of paying homage to you; they make amends for their baseness and servi- 'lity by the severity of their contempt, and revenge themselves for your 'caprices by insulting your misfortunes.'

It is to be regretted that M. Amalric has not placed immediately after this discourse, that relative to the dispositions with which young persons should acquit themselves of their religious duties. The author there prescribes the conduct they ought to hold in the world towards those who have the temerity to attack all religion, those who follow it out of hypocrisy, and those who, through intolerance, condemn all opinions that differ from what they themselves profess. He proves, that they may silence the first, by shewing them the happiness resulting from religious opinions exempt from superstition; the second by adhering strictly to truth in their words and action; and the third by endeavouring to persuade them that the wisdom of government rejected an exclusive religion fearing to sanction oppression.

In the discourse on the duties of young persons towards those who are instrumental in bringing them up, the author does not forget the respect due to faithful and honest servants. After relating a trait of severity of a haughty mistress towards a domestic, he adds, 'And who are they that are 'so ill-treated by their fellow-creatures? One of them attached himself 'to Piso when proscribed, assumed his name, and suffered himself to be 'killed in his stead. Another courageously endured the most cruel tor- 'tures, and died without making any confession that could criminate his 'master. The illustrious Catinat disgraced, and deprived of every re- 'source, found in his valet de chambre, a generous friend who joyfully gave 'him all he possessed. How many more examples could I introduce in 'favour of those whose cause I have undertaken to defend! I know that 'many have during late years acted in a contrary manner; but I know too 'that during the same period many actions of the most heroic virtue per- 'formed by this class of our fellow-creatures have done honour to the 'species; and many examples might be produced of persons attached to 'the service of victims devoted to destruction, who saved them by exposing 'their own lives to the sword of the tyrants. A lady in the period of 'which I speak, lost her whole fortune; her servant maid worked night 'and day to support her; and, after her death, paid the debts which her 'mistress had contracted. Clery, the valet de chambre of Louis XVI. sub- 'mitted to confinement in the Temple with that unfortunate prince; and,

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'under the most untoward circumstances, evinced the most tender attachment. The respectable Barthelemy, now a senator, was condemned to 'transportation; Letellier, his servant, or rather his friend, accompanied 'him and died there, with the most invincible fortitude. And how many 'others have done equal honour to voluntary servitude!'

M. Amalric is not content with exhorting young persons to the practice of virtue by teaching them the principles of sound morality; he at the conclusion of the second volume presents, under the title of Emilia, the history of a female who has profited by the excellent education she received; Emilia now constitutes the happiness of him to whom she is united by the most respectable of ties. A mother truly worthy of the name, she devotes herself entirely to the education of the two children which Providence has given her. It is easy to draw aside the veil with which the author has enveloped this interesting history. Since the publication of his book the virtuous Emilia has lost her daughter who afforded the most brilliant hopes. May she find consolation for this severe affliction, in developing the happy dispositions of her son who remains!

M. Amalric's course of morality will hold a distinguished rank among works of that kind; the name of its author deserves to be classed with those of Fenelon, Dodsley, Jean Jacques Rousseau, Gregory, Fordyce, and St. Lambert. The new course of morality frequently reminds us of the manner of the most celebrated French orators, who are at present more admired than read. The writer who is capable of treading in their steps, and at the same time proposes to himself an aim of more general utility, may hope to enjoy the success which has crowned their labours.

An English translation of this work is, we understand, in preparation.

GERMAN BOOKS.

Das National Museum der Naturgeschichte zu Paris: The National Museum of Natural History at Paris; from its origin to its present state of splendour. By Gotthelf Fischer. Vol. I. 12 and 547 pp. 8vo.

THE Museum of Natural History at Paris is one of the literary establishments of that capital, which justly attracts the particular attention of strangers. This Museum is not only a collection of objects, which are indispensably necessary for the study of Natural History, it is not only a botanic garden, affording to the economist and botanist every opportunity of making interesting observations, but it is an establishment in which are combined the talents of the most distinguished naturalists. The instruction in the different branches of natural history is divided among several professors, so that each by devoting himself in preference, and almost exclusively to one alone is thereby enabled to contribute towards the improvement of science. Zoology is taught by three professors, and botany by the same number. With regard to mineralogy, chemistry, and anatomy, there are three professors for each of those sciences, and several artists are employed in drawing and painting the various objects of this museum. The mechanical care of these objects; the business of feeding and attending the mammiferæ and birds, of arranging the butterflies and insects, of keeping clean the shells and minerals is intrusted to persons who are mere labourers, but to such as perfectly understand their part, and to the necessary mechanical knowledge, unite an acquaintance with the economy and habits of the different animals.

Conformably with the proposal of M. Lacepede, the most accurate systematic arrangement has been observed in the distribution of the objects preserved in this museum, each object has a ticket with its name, and the

division and subdivision to which it belongs. On account of this methodical classification this valuable collection may be visited with advantage, even without any explanatory description. The eye embraces at one view the general system and classification, and the observer is enabled to form an idea of the different orders and genera, of their analogies and differences.

It is an observation of many unprejudiced travellers, that public collections, as those of Vienna, London, Madrid, Parma, Milan, Turin, Leyden, Dresden, Göttingen, Manheim, Darmstadt, Cassel, Petersburg, Stockholm, and Copenhagen, are more serviceable to the towns in which they are, as they raise them into notice and attract strangers, than to science; and that at farthest they are useful only to a few naturalists, who have possessed opportunities of availing themselves of them. The Museum of Natural History at Paris is, on the contrary, organized so as to afford the highest degree of utility.

To shew the improvements made in this establishment at different periods, to raise it to its present splendour, and to make known the celebrated men to whom those improvements are due, such is the aim proposed by M. Fischer in the first volume of his work here announced. In the second he intends to give a description of the garden, the galleries, the menagerie, the green house, &c. This volume, which will likewise be accompanied with a plan of the garden, and engravings of the rarest animals, may serve for a guide to those who may wish to visit with advantage this rich and extensive establishment.

The first volume is divided into two parts; the first contains the history of the garden of plants and its cabinet, from its foundation by Guy de la Brosse, physician to Louis XIII. till 1793. In the second part M. Fischer describes in detail its present organization under the name of the *Museum of Natural History*, according to a decree of 10th June, 1793.

We shall not follow the author through all the highly interesting historic details which he gives relative to this excellent establishment. Besides these historic details on the garden itself and the cabinet, the amateur of biography, of literary history and bibliography, will also find in M. Fischer's work well written notices on all the men of science, to whom this establishment is indebted, and the most accurate catalogue of their works hitherto published. In an appendix the author has given several historic documents, as, the Letters Patent for the establishment of the Royal Garden of Plants, 6 July, 1626; the regulations relative to the opening of the Royal Garden of Plants, for the demonstration of the medicinal plants, in 1640; the regulations of Louis XIV. which fixed the exercises of each of the professors of the Royal Garden of Plants, 14th February, 1708;—the decree of the National Convention of 10th June, 1793, relative to the organization of the National Garden of Plants, and the cabinet of natural history, under the name of the Museum of Natural History; the plan of regulations for the museum of natural history, decreed by the committee of public instruction of the National Convention, 10th June, 1793, &c. The latter appears here for the first time.

Geschichte der Republick Frankreich im grundriss; Elements of the history of France. By C. J. Schutz. 8vo.

THE author divides his subject into two principal parts, one of which contains the history of the foundation of the republic, or of the revolution, properly so called, and the other that of the republic itself.

With

With regard to the causes which paved the way to the revolution, the author discovers them as far back as the reigns of Louis XIII, XIV, and XV; in the character and spirit of the nation enlightened by the writings of philosophers, and the systems of economists; in the decline of the administration and the difficulties that opposed a judicious reform. The causes that immediately produced the revolution were: the reign of Louis XVI; the personal character of the king and queen; the public opinion respecting them; the errors and faults committed by the government, as the continual change of ministers, the re-establishment of the unlimited authority of parliament; the part taken by the king in the American war, and in the movements of the insurgents in the Low Countries; the mis-application of the finances; the convocation of the notables by M. de Brienne, that of the plenary court by Necker, and that of the States General by the Council of State.

The whole work exhibits a kind of chronological table of the events that occured in the course of the revolution. These events are here classed in the following manner: 1. from the opening of the national assembly to the removal of the king from Versailles to Paris; 2. from that period to the king's flight; 3. to the breaking up of the constituent assembly; 4. to the declaration of war against Austria; and 5. to the proclamation of the republic.

The second part commences with general observations on the situation of France, at the commencement of the republic, and is divided into six sections, the first of which comprehends from the establishment of the republic, to the fall of the Girondists; the second to the fall of the Jacobins; the third to the constitution of the year 3; the fourth to the peace of Campo Formio; the fifth to the commencement of the Consular government, and the sixth to the peace of Amiens.

The work is accompanied with two tables, one of which exhibits the complete genealogy of the house of Bourbon, from Louis IX, and the other a chronological sketch of the events of the war, of the powers engaged in every campaign; of the most important battles and conquests, and of the advantages gained and losses suffered by each power in every year.

Oekonomisches bilderbuch; Historical Sketch of Rural Economy. In 3 vols. 8vo. with a great number of coloured Plates.

THIS work completely answers the end for which it was intended, that is, to familiarize youth with the processes of rural economy. The descriptions are concise, but clear and instructive, and the figures are drawn and coloured from nature.

The first and second volumes contain a description of the culinary plants cultivated in Germany, of the herbs employed in dying, and of venomous plants.

The third volume contains a treatise on rural economy in general, and on the cultivation of grain in particular; the remainder of the volume is devoted to a detailed description of the processes of agriculture, and of the instruments necessary for them. The whole work is intended to form nine volumes, of which the six following will contain the cultivation of grass land, gardens, vineyards; the manner of rearing cattle; the management of forests, chaces, and fish-ponds.

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